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Inter-Arab Affairs

'Abd-al-Majid Asked To Help Solve Libyan Issues

LD1903144993 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 19 Mar 93

[Text] The Arab League seven member ministerial committee entrusted with following up the crisis between the Libyan Jamahiriyah and a number of Western countries, ended its proceedings this morning. The committee's proceedings were attended by the foreign ministers of Tunisia, Algeria, Libya, Egypt, Morocco, and Mauritania, and were held in the presence of the Arab League secretary general and the Arab Maghreb Union secretary general. Our news correspondent Hadami Aissaoui contacted Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, who said:

[Begin recording] ['Abd-al-Majid] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The seven-man committee, which was set up following a decision by the Arab League Council, met yesterday and today in order to examine the problem, which was entrusted to it by the Arab League Council, of the Libyan-European dispute. The discussions were conducted in a constructive and practical manner in a bid to find a peaceful solution to such a crisis, and in order not to allow an escalation in the situation in the region, and to the tension to an end. The committee has made a decision; it has asked the Arab League secretary general to enter into contacts with the Security Council president and the rest of its members, as well as with the UN secretary general as soon as possible, in order to find a peaceful solution to this problem.

However, the Arab League Council has made a decision, as you are aware, on this matter—after having taken cognizance of Libya's flexibility in this respect, particularly on issues relating to terrorism and to refrain from making any further moves in this respect— to work in order to end the blockade against Libya following the latter's implementation of Resolutions 731 and 748. We discussed all the aforementioned issues at length. We were prompted to do so out of our eagerness to reach a solution which will bring to an end the tension in the region and to forestall any further escalation of the repercussions on the Arab region and on the rest of Mediterranean countries.

All the aforementioned problems will be, God willing, topics for my examination, discussion, and consultation, as entrusted by the seven-man committee. At the same time, His Excellency President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali has been kind enough to receive their excellencies the ministers-members of the seven-man ministerial committee, as well as the Arab League secretary general. In-depth talks on the matter took place at the meeting, the need to continue contacts and to make a move at the highest level as soon as possible were also reaffirmed.

The seven-man committee welcomes the president's assumption of the presidency of the Arab Maghreb Union, which will be an opportunity to carry out contacts with the leaderships of the committee's member countries, in particular the Libyan leadership and the leaderships of the other concerned countries. [end recording]

Announces 'New Libyan Proposals'

NC1903152793 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1425 GMT 19 Mar 93

[Excerpt] Tunis, 19 Mar (MENA)—The Arab League's seven-member committee in charge of following-up the Lockerbie issue has instructed Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid to contact the Security Council president and members and UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus-Butrus Ghali as soon as possible to work out a peaceful and appropriate solution to this issue.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid made this known during a news conference he held at the end of the committee's meetings this afternoon.

The Arab League secretary general said there are new Libyan proposals for solving the issue; however, he declined to elaborate further on them. He said the Libyan proposals will be relayed to the Security Council and that he himself will convey them to the Security Council president and member states and the UN secretary general. [passage omitted]

Syria's al-Shar' Confers With Tunisian Counterpart

JN1903173693 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1615 GMT 19 Mar 93

[Text] Tunis—[Syrian] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' met this afternoon with Tunisian Foreign Minister Habib Ben Yahya on the sidelines of the meetings of the Arab League's seven-member committee. This committee was created as a result of the crisis between Libya and some Western countries over the Lockerbie issue.

The meeting was attended by Syrian Ambassador in Tunis Ahmad 'Isa.

Talks at the meeting dealt with the situation in the region, the peace process, fraternal bilateral relations, and other issues of common interest.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat, Egypt's Musa Discuss Arab-Israeli Talks

NC1903145593 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1423 GMT 19 Mar 93

[Text] Tunis, 19 Mar (MENA)—Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat met with [Egyptian] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa this afternoon. The approximately 75-minute meeting was attended on the Egyptian side by Egyptian Ambassador in Tunis Ibrahim 'Allam; and Ambassador 'Ali Mahir, director of the foreign minister's office. It was attended on the

Palestinian side by Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO's Political Department; and Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, head of the PLO's Information Department.

In a statement to the MENA correspondent in Tunis, 'Arafat said the talks were positive and constructive and dealt with the Arab-Israeli negotiations. He said he briefed Musa on the talks held between the Palestinian and Israeli sides through the U.S. mediator. He mentioned Israel's insistence on keeping the Jerusalem issue off the agenda and its failure to draw up a timetable for the quick return of the Palestinian deportees.

He described the deportation as a collective expulsion of Palestinians from their homeland, (a transfer) [preceding word in English]. He said this is all happening as Israel is preparing to receive thousands of Jewish immigrants and settle them in our country: Palestine.

'Arafat emphasized that Israel needs to respect international legitimacy and international laws, particularly Resolution 799, and added that international legitimacy should apply only one legitimacy and standard.

The Palestinian president said he discussed Palestinian participation in the next round of peace talks in detail with Foreign Minister Musa.

'Arafat thanked Egypt's president and Government for their efforts for the resumption of the negotiations process and for returning the Palestinian negotiator to them.

He added that he will visit Egypt next week to meet with President Mubarak.

'Arafat Seeks International Protection for Palestinians

LD2003142693 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 20 Mar 93

[Text] Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat has called on all international quarters to halt the massacres being committed by the Israeli occupation forces against the Palestinian people in the occupied territories and to secure protection for them.

He pointed out at a news conference held in Tunis at noon today that the last four days have witnessed the death of four martyrs and the wounding of 448, in addition to the destruction of a large number of homes in the camps, especially in the Khan Yunis and Rafah regions. He described this as part of a new military campaign by the Rabin government, which has ordered its military units to open fire without hesitation on the sons of the Palestinian people.

'Arafat questioned the responsibility of the U.S. Administration for the protection of one of the parties to the negotiations, at a time when the issue of the deportees remains unsolved, and for all the time that the matter of Jerusalem has not been considered a fundamental issue in the negotiations. He expressed the belief that it is difficult for the Arab countries to go to the negotiations without Palestine.

The president of Palestine disclosed the existence of good-offices efforts by Morocco and Egypt to secure a solution for the problems preventing Palestinian participation in the ninth round of the negotiations scheduled for 20 April. He added that these efforts have just started. Finally 'Arafat warned Rabin against the consequences of the policy of oppression he is pursuing in the occupied territories, hinting at the possibility of a substitution for the weapon of stones. He said: Occupation is the cause of disasters. Can an occupied people be expected to smile at the occupier? There is a limit to patience and Rabin has only himself to blame.

'Arafat Holds News Conference

LD2103025993 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1900 GMT 20 Mar 93

[Excerpts] Brother leader President Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] today addressed an appeal to the United Nations, the UN Security Council, European and nonaligned countries, and African and Islamic countries to move immediately to confront the new brutal Israeli massacres and secure international protection for our people under occupation according to UN Security Council Resolution 681 and the Fourth Geneva Convention on human rights and peoples under occupation.

In a packed news conference held this morning in Tunis, Brother President Abu-'Ammar announced that the Israeli massacres of our people during the past four days have lead to seven martyrs and 448 wounded in addition to the destruction of a large number of houses in the camps, particularly in the regions of Rafah and Khan Yunis in the occupied Gaza Strip. [passage omitted]

President Abu-'Ammar added: The full partner is responsible for protecting the sides of the conflict and the sides of the negotiations, particularly as invitation [to the negotiations] and the guarantees forbid the Israelis to launch any aggressive or provocative operations during the negotiations—not to mention any real massacres that claim hundreds of martyrs and wounded.

President Abu-'Ammar continued: I call on the United States and Russia to adopt a practical and clear stance to put an end to these massacres. [passage omitted]

In reply to another question, Brother Abu-'Ammar said: The Moroccan monarch also for his part is undertaking good offices to solve the problem of the deportees. Also, President Husni Mubarak has also made and is currently making moves in all directions about the same issue.

As the Palestinian leadership announced, it is difficult for us to participate in multilateral or bilateral talks before solving the issue of the deportees. [passage indistinct]

I would like to recall, Brother Abu-'Ammar continued, the last statement by the Arab foreign ministers [words

indistinct] which emphasized the importance of solving the issue of the deportees, the resumption of negotiations, and the central priority of the issue of Jerusalem as a basic issue and [words indistinct].

On the stance toward the negotiations, Brother Abu-'Ammar said: We are not boycotting the negotiations for the sake of boycotting them. It should be known that our stance is firm. Everyone must understand what we mean by refusing to accept the invitation.

Brother Abu-'Ammar continued: I hope the two sponsors of the conference, Security Council members, and European countries will exert their efforts so we will be able to participate in the negotiations.

On the Arab stance, Brother President Abu-'Ammar said: It is difficult for the Arab countries to go to the coming round of the peace talks without the Palestinians. He referred to what Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad has said: that peace is for everybody and is made by everybody.

On his talks with the Egyptian foreign minister, Brother Abu-'Ammar said: I agreed with my brother 'Amr Musa to pay a visit to Cairo to meet President Husni Mubarak before he goes to Washington.

The brother president pointed out that the date of the meeting of the foreign ministers of the frontline countries has been fixed for 28 March, and the Arab League will hold a meeting at the representative level on 30 March, after that there will be a meeting at the foreign minister level.

He added: We are exerting efforts to ensure that the Arab stances are homogeneous, united, and compatible. I salute the efforts of my brother leaders of the Arab Maghreb Union countries who have expressed more than once their principled stance toward this issue, particularly the last summit meeting in Tunis between Presidents Ben Ali and Ali Kafi on the Palestinian issue. It was a clear stance for which we thank them, the brother president added. [passage omitted]

Qaddumi: No Bilateral Syria-Israel Agreement

NC2103080593 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0740 GMT 21 Mar 93

[Text] London, 21 Mar (MENA)—Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, stressed that the boycott of the next round of the peace negotiations is not just linked to the Palestinian deportees issue but also to the need to ensure that the bases for the settlement process will continue to be adhered to.

In an interview with AL-HAYAH newspaper published here today, he called on the U.S. Administration not to follow a double standard, not to ignore the existing facts, and to declare clearly its policy on the peaceful settlement in the region.

The PLO official asserted that Syria will not conclude a unilateral agreement or bilateral solution with Israel because it is primarily eager for a comprehensive solution on all Arab fronts. He added that everything else that has been said about this is merely rumor.

Qaddumi said that the Jordanian and Palestinian views are identical in assessing the grave situation in the Middle East and the difficulties that are impeding the continuation of the negotiations, adding that unless these difficulties are removed, the negotiations cannot continue.

He ruled out Israel's withdrawal from the occupied Gaza Strip in the absence of comprehensive agreements and peace. He criticized the escalation of the Israeli repression and practices against the Palestinian people in the occupied territories.

Qaddumi Interviewed on Peace Talks

NC2103084593 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0610 GMT 21 Mar 93

[Telephone interview with Faruq Qaddumi, director of the PLO Political Department, in Tunis, by Ashraf 'Abd-al-'Aziz, in Cairo, on the "Dialogue From Afar" program; date not given—recorded]

[Text] ['Abd-al-'Aziz] Mr. Qaddumi, could you tell us of the Palestinian views proposed during the meeting between Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and the Palestinian president in Tunis the day before yesterday?

[Qaddumi] Brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] explained briefly the difficulties and obstacles confronting the peace process, particularly since the PLO did not intend to join the eighth round of peace talks. The deportees problem occurred afterward and the Security Council passed a resolution on it. Israel must respect international legitimacy and the United States should not follow double standards. This was the main issue of the talks. The difficulties and obstacles facing the peace process must be removed. The Arabs should concentrate their efforts and unify their position on these problems so that they may be resolved.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] If agreement is reached on the return of the deportees within a specific period, will you take part in the next round of the peace talks?

[Qaddumi] I said clearly that we did not intend to take part in the eighth round of the peace talks, which took place before the deportation of Palestinians. This shows that there were obstacles blocking the peace process before the deportation issue occurred. The deportation exacerbated the problem. This situation dictates the need for compliance with the Security Council resolution, which strongly condemned the Israeli action. Israel is still prevaricating and refusing to implement the resolution. The UN secretary general submitted a comprehensive report to the Security Council saying that

Israel refuses to implement the Security Council resolution. Since a political settlement depends on the Security Council resolution and Israel refuses to implement it, there is no sense in continuing these talks, because they are of no use. However, if these obstacles are removed, Israel implements Security Council Resolution 799, and all the deportees are returned to their homeland Palestine, the situation will be different.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] You said there were obstacles before the deportation and before the eighth round of the peace talks and that you did not intend to take part in that round. Could you tell us about some of these obstacles?

[Qaddumi] Israel has refused to implement Security Council resolutions on the Palestinian track right from the outset. Israel just thinks of Palestinians as people under its control. Further, the Israelis do not want to discuss the Jerusalem issue, which is an important one and there is no way we will cede it. In addition, they want the settlements to remain under Israeli sovereignty although the Security Council resolutions say that annexing Jerusalem is illegal, as are the settlements, which should be removed. Israel should comply with international legitimacy, otherwise these negotiations will not lead to the results to which we aspire to achieve a fair and permanent peace in the Middle East.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Mr. Qaddumi, does this mean that you still cling to your position not to participate in the next round of peace talks unless these obstacles are removed?

[Qaddumi] No doubt, removal of these obstacles is a basic demand not only by the Palestinians but also by the European countries, which are considered to be friends of Israel. If we accept this, we will face more complicated difficulties in the future. Things would go on without these difficulties being resolved according to international law and the negotiations would become meaningless.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Mr. Qaddumi, you are participating in the peace talks with a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation and you still refuse to participate in the next round of talks. What will the Jordanian delegation's position be?

[Qaddumi] Our brothers in Jordan said that it is not easy for Jordan to go to the negotiations with half a delegation. This means that Jordan will not participate in the talks if its Palestinian brothers do not. All the Arab delegations fully understand these bitter realities. This situation prompted us to invite the five Arab parties to meet in Damascus after 'Id al-Fitr, God willing, to study the situation.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Could you tell us about any new views that you will propose to the meeting of the Arab cordon states in Damascus?

[Qaddumi] The peace process is currently passing through a transitional period: A new U.S. Administration has assumed power. We must assess the past stage and see if there have been difficulties or achievements in the peace process. We must also assess the U.S. position after U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's visit to the region and his talks with the Arab delegations. We must evaluate the outcome of Israeli Prime Minister Rabin's visit to the United States. We must discuss Arab relations with the European and other countries concerned with peace and security in the region. The Palestinian deportees issue will be high on the agenda of the Damascus talks.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat will visit Cairo next week for talks with his brother President Mubarak. Could you tell us about the topics they will discuss?

[Qaddumi] Brother Abu-'Ammar will visit Egypt after 'Id al- Fitr, God willing. He will meet with President Mubarak to discuss the latest developments in the Middle East, primarily the peace process and ways of confronting the new challenges, particularly since President Mubarak will visit the United States. President Mubarak should learn the Palestinian views and problems before visiting the United States. We are aware that Egypt shoulders a major pan-Arab responsibility in supporting the Palestinian cause and people.

PFLP Denies Attempt on 'Abd-al-Shafi

NC1903181193 Paris AFP in English 1747 GMT 19 Mar 93

[Text] Amman, March 19 (AFP)—A radical PLO group on Friday [19 March] accused Israeli soldiers of trying to assassinate the head of the Palestinian peace delegation Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi in the occupied Gaza Strip.

A spokesman for the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) said the group had information that "members of an Israeli army special unit opened fire at Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi" Thursday night in the Rafah refugee camp.

'Abd-al-Rahim Malluh, a member of the PFLP's political bureau, also denied Israeli accusations that his group was responsible for the attack.

He told AFP that 'Abd-al-Shafi was a "patriot who enjoys the respect and consideration of the Palestinian people" and accused Israel of trying to put pressure on him to force him out of the peace talks.

Israeli television, quoting military sources, said masked men of the Red Eagles, an armed wing of the PFLP, had opened fire on 'Abd-al-Shafi.

But the head of the Palestinian delegation in peace talks with Israel denied the report.

"It was dark but I did not see any masked men nearby and I think it was Israeli soldiers who fired near me killing Yusuf al-Gharib," he told AFP. He said he had attended a dinner at Rafah when the killing took place.

In Israel on Friday an army spokesman said no soldiers, or border guards, were present in the area of the attack.

Four other Palestinians were wounded in the attack, according to a Palestinian mayor of one of the Gaza communities.

Israeli Commitment Said Needed To Attend Talks

JN2203074993 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 22 Mar 93 pp 1, 3

[By JORDAN TIMES staff reporter Maryam M. Shahin]

[Text] Amman—With less than a month to go before April 20, the date set for the ninth bilateral Arab-Israeli peace talks, Palestinian officials say that the expellee issue could be addressed, but there are two main stipulations which Israel should meet before the Palestinians return to the peace table.

"There is a real desire on the part of Palestinians to attend round nine of the talks, but we will not go... until some steps are taken on the part of the Israelis," says the Amman-based advisor to the Palestinian negotiating team, Taysir 'Aruri.

A phased return of the almost 400 Palestinian expellees in southern Lebanon, according to Tunis and Amman-based Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) officials, is acceptable in principle."

"The issue of a phased return is no longer the main point of contention," says a senior advisor to PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, who spoke to the Jordan Times on condition of annonymity from Tunis.

"We want an Israeli commitment to the point of reference vis-a-vis the Palestinian-Israeli dispute. So far we have no commitment from them on anything," he said.

Palestinian sources say that Israel needs to commit itself to a land for peace formula with the Palestinians.

"We need a commitment on U.N. Resolutions 242 and 338. We need to hear that the occupied territories are occupied and not 'disputed'," Mr. 'Aruri said. "At this point we want two things to continue the talks; the first is a clear adherence to a withdrawal of lands occupied in the 1967 war and the second is a commitment not to deport any more people from the occupied territories."

PLO officials confirmed to the Jordan Times that Syria, Egypt and Morocco were involved in efforts to convince the Israeli government of the need for such commitments.

PLO officials say that the quick Palestinian rejection of the U.S. Russian invitation to round nine of the talks was a sign that "the Palestinians will not be taken for granted."

While anger was expressed in some PLO quarters that Mr. 'Arafat did not seek any advice before deciding to turn down the invitation most agree that the Palestinians could not have done otherwise.

The refusal was necessary for two reasons, says a senior Palestine National Council (PNC) member. "First, it was necessary to show the Palestinians in the territories that the leadership in Tunis does represent their wishes and desire. Second, the Palestinians needed to show the Israelis and the Americans that they don't accept violation of law and order—in other words U.N. Security Council Resolutions," the PNC member told the Jordan Times.

A Jerusalem Media and Communications Centre Opinion poll which was published in February indicated that 83 per cent of the people in the occupied territories believe that the negotiating team should not return to the peace talks until the expellee issue is addressed.

Both support for and expectations of the peace talks have declined considerably since the peace process began in October of 1991, PLO officials monitoring events in the occupied territories say."

The public opinion poll conducted by the Jerusalem Media and Communications Centre indicates that only 60 per cent of the Palestinians in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank believe the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks should return "after the expellees have returned." Only 13 per cent said they thought negotiations was the appropriate method for solving the Palestinian problem.

Both the PLO leadership and that of the Islamic Resistance movement Hamas question the results of the recent poll. But they admit that support for Palestinian participation in the talks is waning.

"We are at a low point right now," said the senior 'Arafat advisor from Tunis. "But despite the disappointment that the people feel about the lack of progress thus far we cannot and must not quit the negotiations."

Mr. 'Aruri said in Amman:

"People have seen no results. On the contrary they are seeing harsher policies being practiced by the Israelis since the 'peaceful' Rabin government took over."

While opponents of the peace talks, namely the group of 10 Palestinian parties most of whom are based on Damascus, say that the Palestinians should pull out of the talks, Palestinian analysts warn of grave consequences.

"If we give up and pull out, the Israelis will have their way and start building settlements on the West Bank again at full scale. By the time they are finished the West Bank will look like the Galilee triangle and we won't be able to negotiate over even the smallest piece of land," warned 'Arafat's advisor.

Algeria

Extremists Set Fire To APS Broadcasting Tower

NC2003183593 Paris AFP in English 1648 GMT 20 Mar 93

[Text] Algiers, March 20 (AFP) - Suspected Muslim extremists dressed as policemen set fire to the broadcasting tower of the Algerian news agency APS, the agency charged Saturday.

The assailants neutralized an APS technician and a guard and killed two watchdogs, then set fire to the machine room after dousing it with petrol, APS said.

The unspecified number of attackers fled in an APS vehicle, it added.

The damage was estimated at nearly 150 million dinars (nearly seven million dollars), APS said.

Algeria has been gripped by bloodshed and guerrilla activity since the Army intervened in January 1992 to cancel a second round of general elections the Islamic Salvation Front was poised to win.

The country is under a state of emergency with a curfew in the Algiers region and special anti-terrorist units are active.

Terrorists Killed During National Gendarmerie Search

LD2103114593 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0700 GMT 21 Mar 93

[Text] The National Gendarmerie command announced yesterday that two terrorists were killed and a third was caught on Thursday in the suburbs of Meftah in Blida province.

The operation took place during the continuing search for hideouts in the mountains of the region. The gendarmerie source stated that the two terrorists were killed as they were trying to flee.

Several People Arrested, Terrorist Killed in Djelfa

LD2203002493 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2300 GMT 21 Mar 93

[Text] It has been learned today from a source at the security services of Djelfa Province [approximately 240 kms south of Algiers] that the latter have arrested several people under the charge of undermining state security and carrying out illegal activities. According to the same source, five people were arrested while in possession of military uniforms and medical equipment. The security services arrested 10 other people for dealing in drugs.

The same source added that the security services put an end to the activities of six people who were in possession of subversive tapes and leaflets. It has also been learned from a police source that a terrorist who was getting ready to carry out an operation against a man from the security forces was killed yesterday evening at Rachid Fekir Street in Mouradia District in the capital. The same source added that the terrorist was killed when he pulled a Beretta automatic pistol in order to fire at a policeman.

National Consultative Council Member Dies From Wounds

LD1903200993 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 19 Mar 93

[Excerpts] Following the assassination of Mr. Djilali Liabes and Dr. Hedi Flissi, Mr. Hafid Senhadri, the principal private secretary of the Minister of Vocational Training and member of the National Consultative Council, died yesterday at the military hospital at Ain Naadja after five days of unconsciousness. He was subjected to an armed attack last Sunday near his house in Garidi district in the capital Algiers. [passage omitted]

The funeral of the late Senhadri will take place on 20 March at 1230 in the afternoon starting from the residence of his parents at Street 15 in Oran to Ain Beidaa cemetery in Oran.

Interior Minister Says No Negotiations With FIS

LD2103112593 Paris France-Inter Radio Network in French 1000 GMT 21 Mar 93

[Excerpt] In Algeria, the interior minister has voiced his reaction following last week's wave of attacks on several of the country's leading figures. He said there will never be clemency for criminals and there will be no negotiations with the banned Islamic Salvation Front [FIS]. [passage omitted]

Interior Minister Hardi Interviewed

LD2103160593 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 21 Mar 93

[Text] In an interview with EL-WATAN, Minister of Interior Mohamed Hardi stated that it has become clear now that terrorism is now aimed at civilian victims, at the best sons of Algeria. The operation to destabilize the country's institutions and deal them a fatal blow is escalating, he said. He stressed that it has become plain from recent terrorist operations that the whole Algerian people without exception is now the target. This is evident from the fact that all those who were assassinated by the hands of treason, who fell victim to terrorism, were citizens whose probity was beyond doubt, who were totally untarnished, and were among the best of the sons of Algeria. In contrast, he declared, we have never seen that one of the evil men, thieves, or traitors has been assassinated, and we have yet to hear of a case of an assassination among the ranks of the Algerian mafia.

The minister said that terrorism is targeting the dynamic forces in the country, whose probity represents the best aspects of this nation, who are zealous for the Algeria of fraternity, concord, and modernity. The interview

granted to the French-language newspaper also dealt with the new measures being prepared by the government within the context of the law combating terrorism. He made clear that they are more appropriate and fall within the context of the consolidation of the state of law, the laws of the republic, and have the necessary transparency to prevent any deviations. Hardi justified this by saying that a state facing and combating terrorism must maintain a moral face and ensure justice in order to be strong and eliminate the epidemic of terrorism.

Answering a question concerning the government call for mercy, which stirred up the reaction of political parties and some quarters in the civilian society, who saw in this a retreat in the government's stance on the combat of terrorism, the minister made clear that as far as the government's stance in this respect is concerned, there is nothing new; what is new is the hostile stance of some political forces. He stressed that, at present and with the implementation of the government's program, the people who have capital and want Algeria to eliminate the terrorists and those who carry out disturbances quickly have begun to feel the pinch.

Here the minister said that the law exists, and that the organization of the apparatus of justice is now a tangible reality. The consolidation of the struggle against terrorism is today one of the standing concerns of the state. Thus, Hardi said, artificial problems must be put aside. If there are people who want to attack the government they must come to the fore and state this openly, saying: You are a danger to our financial and power interests. Hardi said that there has been enough hiding behind the people and misleading them, and enough attacks on the government for making the appeal of mercy. In a counter-argument, the minister said we have always been very clear that there will be no mercy for the terrorists and the criminals who plan and carry out acts of terrorism. He stressed that there will be no dialogue with the former criminal leaders of the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] who used violence and terrorism against the people. The minister said that the criminal political and military leaders of this party and its members who do not break the law should not be put in the same basket.

The issue which Hardi believes should be raised today is that of the relation between religion and state. He made clear that there are two main possible answers. There are persons in political parties who call for separating the two. This, Hardi stated, is impossible. Those political parties calling for separating religion from state must show how they can convince citizens of this idea. Hardi declared that the options are not many.

The first option is for those parties to persuade the citizens; he expressed doubt that it would be possible to persuade a Muslim country like Algeria to separate religion from the state.

The second option, Hardi stated, would be to hold a referendum on the issue. He said he doubted if this would receive a majority vote.

The third and last option would be that those parties would impose on the citizens the idea of separating religion from the state by force. In this case, he asked: Do they have the power to impose their idea on the citizens by force? Naturally the answer is no, said Hardi, because those parties represent only a small minority of the Algerian people. On what power do they rely? Would it be on the power of the state, and to be more precise, the power of the army?

Hardi also asked: Do you seriously believe that the army will impose a dictatorship on the people in order to impose the separation of religion from the state on the people? Here Hardi explained the pros and the cons in relation to a modern and republican state system.

Hardi stated that whenever the modern and republican state, to which the Higher State Council and the government have been devoting themselves, is mentioned, it is as if this concept is seized upon in an attempt to interpret it as a separation of religion from the state or the secular state. When you tell them that this is not the concept which we have in mind, they become enraged. Hardi said that this is cultural terrorism and the terrorism of the saloons; it is another form of terrorism imposed by a minority on the majority which seeks, like the armed terrorist minority, to impose its point of view on general authority; this point of view does not have the approval of the majority of the citizens, he declared.

Government Council Condemns Violence, Tightens Security

LD2103183593 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 21 Mar 93

[Text] The government council met today under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Belaid Abdesselam. In a press release published following the meeting, the government noted the escalation of violence through targeting personalities who had proven through their education, the posts they had served, and their exemplary behavior that they represent the elite in our society and, therefore, represent the future of our people.

The government council renewed its condemnation against the crimes directed against the whole Algerian nation. It called on the people to respond to the threats that are facing it.

The press release of the government council also said that the wave of criticism levelled against the government emanates from a group that have ulterior interests, who today feel threatened now that the cleansing operation announced by the government program has come into effect or is under preparation.

These groups—which are supervised by some quarters—are, in fact, direct partners or genuine accomplices to those who use terror and crime to spread chaos among the people and work toward undermining and destroying the Algerian state, as the press release of the government council went on to say.

The government stresses its resolve to continue its work, which is based on cleansing and social justice. The press release added that the attacks launched by clandestine forces would not harm, in any way, the determination of the government to build a credible and strong state that represents the only guarantee to revive the situation, develop the country, and help establish a more tolerant and just society that is open to modernism.

The government council also gave its agreement on the holding of mass demonstrations, planned for 22 March 1993; to allow citizens an opportunity to express their rejection of terrorist assassinations.

In the same context, the council assessed the security situation in the country and issued instructions to officials at ministries to take charge of the security situation to protect the employees of the public administration sector. This concludes the press release of the government council.

Special Court Pronounces Nine Death Sentences

LD2103004393 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2300 GMT 20 Mar 93

[Excerpt] Late Saturday evening the Algiers Special Judicial Council pronounced the death sentence on nine members of the Emir Noh terrorist group. Six of the nine were present at sentencing. They are Alam Noureddine, alias Emir Noh; (Boutheldja Messaoud); Wasit Mouhammed; (Faris Faroug); Malek Ahmed; and Belbachir Mouhammed, alias Noh Orani.

The remaining three, who remain at large, were sentenced in absentia. They are Abdallah Hassan, Sidiki Noueddine, and Bouzian Djamal.

They were found guilty of deliberate murder, theft, and forming a gang for robbery; threats; carrying banned weapons; possession of military weapons; transporting explosives; and wearing military uniforms.

A sentence of life imprisonment was pronounced against two members in their presence—Mousa Mehdi and (Zhouri Noureddine)—and against eight other members who are at large: Baa Ezzeddine, Karzoul Abdelkarim, Bouchlagh Mouhammed, Belkadi Kamal, Hattab Abdelkader, Samir Djilani, Mihoubi Ismail, and Hassan Ahmed.

A sentence of 20 years imprisonment was pronounced against Nasif Djilani and Mehdaoui Farid, who were present at sentencing.

A sentence of 15 years imprisonment was pronounced against Sahnoun Redha, Chettab Djamal, and Tiar Ahmed.

The rest of the accused present were sentenced to between 10 years and five years imprisonment.

The Judicial Council found seven of the accused not guilty because it was found that they were not involved in the terrorist actions. [passage omitted]

Egypt

Mubarak Views Terrorism on Koran Anniversary

NC1903213093 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 2003 GMT 19 Mar 93

[Speech by President Husni Mubarak on the anniversary of the revelation of the Koran, at al-Azhar University in Cairo—live]

[Excerpts] Grand Imam the Shaykh of al-Azhar, esteemed 'ulema, and guiding preachers. It is a great pleasure for me to meet with you tonight on this noble occasion and celebrate together an anniversary that is greatly respected and exalted in our history and hearts. It is the occasion when inspiration was given to our master Muhammad, God's peace and prayers be with him. [passage omitted]

The best thing we can do and be inspired by on the night of revelation—the night when the Koran was revealed and the divine message dawned on humanity—is to remember the immortal principles and noble values the Koran has illuminated and the divine message has heralded, ponder the conditions of our nation in their light, and see where we stand so that we can discern the obstacles in our course and pave the way for our awakening and renaissance and for restoring our position. [passage omitted]

The conditions of the nation at this phase of our history are a source of sorrow and incites emotions that pain the heart, wrench the soul, and addle the mind. Everyone who cares about his nation must today make its condition his top priority and major preoccupation.

Tragic conflicts are raging in a number of our [Islamic] nation's countries. These conflicts are sectarian, ethnic, tribal, and political. They all ultimately lead to divisions and ruptures and quite often lead to the shedding of innocent blood and to the death of peaceful and unarmed people. Quite often, they cause famines that kill women, children, the elderly, or force millions to become destitute, hapless, and lost. In a number of our nation's countries, there exist painful symptoms that are the remnant of the backwardness that is inconsistent with our glorious past and our challenging and hopeful future.

In a number of our nation's countries there are grave negative phenomena that have appeared prominently in the last few years. The most important phenomenon is that of extremism and terrorism. Some have enthusiastically moved toward extremism, which is far remote from the spirit of tolerant Islam and the course of moderation. Terrorism has gone beyond the deviationist intellectual attitude to vile criminal actions, which kill

peaceful innocent people and frighten peaceful citizens and visitors. It is also tearing national unity apart, sabotaging national institutions, and hitting with the bullets of treachery and incendiary bombs those who protect the homeland's security and safety and those who have devoted their lives to protect and defend it.

The regrettable and sad thing is that all of this is done by people who are fraudulently hiding behind the cloak of Islam and misleading people by hiding behind the mask of those who are seeking reform in the name of religion. They are fraudulently including themselves among Muslims and are even falsely claiming that they alone represent the real Muslims.

As a result of all this, our nation—despite the divine religion it is honored to uphold, its great cultural heritage, the great deeds of its reformist pioneers and struggling leaders, and its peoples' sufferings to rid themselves of colonialism, slavery, and exploitation—remains rooted in its place in the developing world, or more frankly, in the backward world.

This situation causes pain in the heart of every concerned person and fills with sorrow the hearts of every Muslim whose heart is throbbing with the love of his nation and who desires its awakening, renaissance, and salvation from its slumber and the consequences of its crisis. Our nation's condition poses this pressing question to every caring person, a question that haunts him day and night: How can we escape from this sorrowful condition of a noble nation that has been forced to stop and, at times, lag behind? This is true especially considering that with its divine religion, the Holy Koran, and the message of its great prophet, it deserves to rise, advance and lead.

It is my view, as well as the view of everyone who really knows the essence of Islam, that salvation from these sorrowful conditions lies only in returning to the noble Islamic principles that form the message of Islam and in following up what Muhammad, God's peace and prayers be with him, called for when he was inspired by God, which happened on a night such as this around 14 and a quarter centuries ago. This alone can benefit humanity everywhere and at all times.

It was these noble Islamic principles that saved the Arabs and the world around them from conditions much worse than our nation's conditions today. They can undoubtedly be the savior for our nation today, as there were for the Arabs and the world yesterday.

The first of these principles is the sanctity of humanity. It means the sanctity of man, his blood and possessions. No one has the right to commit aggression unjustly against any man's life or possessions.

The second principle is sanctifying freedom. This means that no one has the right to harm a man's freedom and the freedom of his creed and thinking, let alone pillage or compromise them. Thus, no one has the right to enslave another, attempt to change his faith, or impose any thought on him by force.

The third principle is consolidating fraternal ties. In Islam's view, believers form a large family; the Islamic nation. Moreover, they are members of the same body; Islam's society. Therefore, as Muslims, they should support each other and bear each other's burden. Under Islam, they should come close to each other and unite rather than split, fight, and break apart.

The fourth principle is achieving human equality. This means abolishing discrimination among people on the basis of race, color, or ethnicity. No race or color has precedence over another except on the basis of piety. Islam rejects all tribal and ethnic disputes and conflicts and all forms of racial discrimination.

The fifth principle is promoting cultural values. This is done by acquiring useful knowledge, constructive education, and collective development, all of which organize construction, economy, industry, agriculture, and all human activity that builds earth and achieves a dignified life for man, the inheritor of God on earth.

Promoting cultural values requires the protection of all their accomplishments with the necessary force to safeguard them and deter anyone who tries to undermine, usurp, or threaten to deprive them of the stability, security, and safety needed for their growth and prosperity.

The sixth principle is clinging to moral values. The ultimate goal of Muhammad's mission is to complement good morals. The noble messenger's main attribute is that he has great morals and that the people most loved by his chaste heart are those with the best character and highest conduct.

The seventh principle is glorifying peace and rejecting hostile war. Peace is the spirit of Islamic preaching because it achieves for people security, ensures their right to life, and gives them the opportunity to build the earth in an atmosphere of stability conducive to development and prosperity. The evidence of Islam's glorifying peace is that God called himself peace; that God made the Muslims' greeting word peace' and that God called on all mankind to create a society of right, welfare, justice, and Islam, calling this society the house of peace [Dar al-Salam]. Almighty God has only authorized war for Muslims in cases of self-defense and only to avert a planned aggression against them and to liberate the oppressed who suffer injustice, slavery, and repression.

Under the principle of their religion, Muslims are a nation of peace, not of fighting; a nation of building and construction, not of devastation and destruction; a nation of cooperation and harmony, not one of dispute and division; and a nation of civilization and progress, not one of ignorance and backwardness.

These are seven pillars that emerge from among Islam's immortal principles upon which our ancestors set up

their great state and built their great civilization, by which they took the lead, achieved dominance, and truly were the best nation of all.

O venerable ulema, guiding preachers: One of the main tasks we shoulder at this crucial period of our nation's history is to put these principles before our eyes, to take care of them, and to deepen them in the souls of the sons of this nation so that they will be guided by them.

We appeal to every son of our Islamic nation to play his role and perform his duty to rectify the nation's march and correct the image of its sons. This will promote the nation's image, awaken it, and restore its renaissance.

Everyone is called on to do their utmost to rectify the nation's march on the road of its pure religion and to rectify the image of its sons through the teachings of its eternal Koran. All of us are urged to work to attain this noble objective.

The ulema, thinkers, opinion leaders, reformists, writers, media men, rulers, and officials, each according to his field and the nature of his work, must perform his duty to rectify the march, correct the image, and promote the nation. We pledge allegiance to our nation, and we have the honor to belong to it.

What was inflicted on our nation in the past and continues to be inflicted on it these days is the result of distance from the principles, the dawn of which rose during the night of revelation. The light of these principles spread when the greatest preacher accomplished his call and completed his message. [passage omitted]

Thus, we see that the remedy of all our tragic diseases is to return to the teachings of our eternal religion and to adhere to the guiding principles of Islam.

Had we followed the principle of the sanctity of mankind, no one would have carried out treacherous aggression against the lives of others, their land, or property; and no one would have committed murders or robbed others. All these actions are inflicted on innocent Muslims by others who claim to be Muslims.

Had we protected the principle of freedom, everyone would have respected the creed and opinion of others and would have realized that there is no coercion in religion. Needless to say, creed can only survive through conviction and cannot be achieved through force. Faith cannot be instilled in the heart through the sword. We must recall God Almighty's words to his prophet, may God's peace and prayers be with him: "Wilt thou then compel mankind against their will to believe." [Koranic verse] [passage omitted]

Had we upheld brotherly ties, we would have held fast, all together, by the rope God stretches out, as He ordered us and we would have formed a power taken into consideration in the world.

Had we upheld the principle of human equality, no racial or tribal conflicts that have caused much loss of life and bloodshed and much destruction in many Islamic countries in Asia and Africa would have taken place. These conflicts still threaten our nation; we must do something to end the calamity and danger. Had we upheld cultural values, we would have advanced in science, education, and culture. Had we upheld what is required for protecting civilization and progress, we would have doubled our efforts for economic, industrial, and agricultural development, provided the living needs of our peoples, and ensured that we became strong in all aspects in line with our Lord's saying: Against them make ready your strength to the utmost of your power. Thus we would have become in deed not word a strong nation in a world in which there is no place except for the strong. We would have assumed the role we deserve in the new world order, which rejects the backward, tramples upon the lazy and the weak, and only looks with respect on the civilized and strong.

Had we upheld the Islamic moral values, no one from among us would deviate from the line to harm our reputation, distort the image of our nation, and cause ridicule on us and indifference to our values. This may exceed the negative actions committed by some unjustly against our religion and all the sons of our nation.

Had we upheld the principle of just peace, some of the sons of our nation would not have been involved in illegitimate aggressive, expansionist, or revengeful wars, which have brought on those who carried them out and those who were exposed to them devastation, a waste of money, death, and bloodshed. We would not have had the division or increased problems, all this in addition to that which caused our image as a nation to be shaken in the eyes of others.

The Grand Imam the shaykh of Al-Azhar, revered ulema and preachers:

Let us pray to God on this blessed night to open the eyes of our nation throughout the Islamic world to see that the time has come to abandon conflicts, disputes, and disagreements and to listen to our Lord's words: And fall into no disputes, lest ye lose heart and your power depart.

Let us pray to God on this blessed night that the sons of our nation throughout the Islamic world would see that the time has come to realize that the spirit of Islam is tolerance, its principle is freedom, and its rule is protecting human life. How great it is to listen to God's words: If any one slew a person—unless it be for murder or for spreading mischief in the land—it would be as if he slew the whole people.

Let us also pray to God on this blessed night to support our nation throughout the Islamic world to adopt all the means of progress, in science, education, development, and economy, and to defend what has been achieved through deterrent force that repulses the ambitions of the covetous and safeguards every inch of the nation's land and all the achievements—to defend them against the conspiracies of the adventurers and aggressors. All this

takes place in response to the saying: Against them make ready your strength to the utmost of your power.

Finally, let us pray to God on this blessed night to support all the sons of our nation to work to improve the nation's image by adopting the values of Islam and its wise, civilized course and to prove to the world that we Muslims are a nation of love, civilization, tolerance, and peace.

Many happy returns of the day, and God's peace and blessings be upon you.

'Maximum' Security Alert Announced

NC2003150793 Cairo AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY in Arabic 1408 GMT 20 Mar 93

[Text] Cairo, 20 Mar (AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY)—As part of government preparations for the blessed 'Id al-Fitr [beginning on 23 or 24 March], the Interior Ministry has announced a maximum state of alert, with a stringent security plan to safeguard 'Id prayers throughout Egypt.

The plan will provide protection for tourist attractions, night clubs, and important monuments in the capital and governorates. Measures also will be taken to protect cinemas, theaters, parks, and government buildings. Interior Minister 'Abd-al-Halim Musa has decided to deploy mounted patrols to guard celebrations. He also has decided to cancel leave for Interior Ministry officers and soldiers.

Sudan Threatens To Refer Hala'ib to Arbitration

NC2103110993 Cairo AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY in Arabic 1038 GMT 21 Mar 93

[Text] Cairo, 21 Mar (AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY)—Sudan has recently threatened to refer the dispute over the Egyptian region of Hala'ib to international arbitration. The military regime in Khartoum claims that there are Egyptian forces in the region and threatened to resort to international arbitration if these forces are not withdrawn from the disputed region. AL-WAFD newspaper said that Cairo refused to set a date for the meeting of the fourth session of the Egyptian-Sudanese committee assigned to study the Hala'ib file. The committee was scheduled to meet in Cairo after 'Id al-Fitr. The committee work is expected to be postponed indefinitely in protest over the Sudanese regime's provocative measures against Egyptian interests in Sudan.

AL-WAFD reported that the Sudanese regime is considering sending an envoy to Cairo after 'Id al-Fitr for consultations with Egyptian officials over the current tension in Egyptian-Sudanese relations and ways of containing the crisis. Sudan again asked Egypt to freeze the activities of Sudanese opposition members living in Egypt.

Minister: Sudan 'Works for Other Countries'

NC2103160393 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 21 Mar 93

[Text] Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif has affirmed that the relations between the Egyptian and Sudanese peoples are eternal. He said Egypt knows what Sudan, the Sudanese people, and the Nile Valley represent, and that the Sudanese people know that Egypt complements Sudan and that the Egyptian and Sudanese peoples form one nation linked by common interests.

In an interview with the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-SIYASAH, he said the minority-controlled Sudanese regime works for other countries and powers that do not want Egypt to perform its genuine Islamic and Gulf security roles. These other countries also do not want Egypt to utilize its international influence and geographical location.

He added that Egypt is well aware that the Sudanese regime is completely subordinate to these powers. He stressed that the Sudanese regime creates crises with Egypt when it finds itself in trouble. The Sudanese regime raised the Hala'ib issue with former Presidents Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir and Anwar al-Sadat, but this time the regime has raised it for the sake of others.

Concluding his interview, the information minister said the eternal ties between the two countries are based on the two nations, but that any changes in these ties emerge from the Sudanese regimes, which change overnight.

Syrian President Expected To Visit Cairo 27 Mar

NC2003072093 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 20 Mar 93

[From the press review]

[Text] AKHBAR AL-YAWM reports that Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad is expected to visit Cairo on Saturday, 27 March, before the Damascus meeting of the foreign ministers of the cordon states [Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, Egypt, and the PLO]. Presidents Mubarak and al-Asad will discuss the latest developments in the peace process in light of Egypt's current efforts. During al-Asad's visit, the date for the meeting in Cairo of the Egyptian-Syrian higher committee will be set.

Libyan Foreign Secretary Leaves Cairo for Amman

NC2003084593 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0754 GMT 20 Mar 93

[Text] Cairo, 20 Mar (MENA)—Dr. 'Umar Mustafa al-Muntasir, Libyan secretary of the People's Committee for External Liaison (foreign minister), left Cairo this morning for Amman on an official visit to Jordan. He was seen off at the airport by a number of staff members in the Libyan Embassy [as received] in Cairo.

Al-Muntasir arrived here yesterday from Tunis after having attended the meeting of the seven-member Arab committee to discuss developments in the Libyan-Western crisis.

Libya Reportedly Offers To Help Combat Terrorism

NC2003113393 Cairo AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY in Arabic 1024 GMT 20 Mar 93

[Text] Cairo, 20 Mar (AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY)—Regarding reports on the involvement of foreign elements in assisting terrorists in carrying out their attacks in Egypt, and within the framework of Arab coordination to confront terrorism, the newspaper AL-WAFD, mouthpiece of the opposition Wafd Party, reported that the Libyan authorities offered to place all their security resources at Egypt's disposal to eliminate infiltration attempts by terrorists. The paper says that a high-ranking Libyan security delegation will arrive in Cairo in the next few hours to discuss a plan to foil attempts by terrorists to enter Egypt through the Sudanese-Libyan borders.

AL-WAFD has learned that the Libyan delegation has proposals to secure control of the Egyptian-Libyan borders through the al-Sallum entry post and other unknown routes in the Western Desert.

The Egyptian security authorities obtained serious documents condemning the Sudanese military regime and its participation with Iran in planning terrorist operations at tourist sites. The documents revealed a plan to assassinate a number of officials by terrorists who received training in Sudanese-Iranian camps.

'Abd-al-Rahman Implicated in 'All' Recent Attacks

NC2103111793 Cairo AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY in Arabic 1032 GMT 21 Mar 93

[Text] Cairo, 21 Mar (AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY)—Egypt's security authorities are holding large-scale investigations with members of the terrorist organization arrested in Alexandria several days ago after crossing the Egyptian border. The agency has learned that the security organs have obtained important information based on some members' confessions. One piece of information obtained was that each one of them will receive 50,000 [Egyptian] pounds after successfully carrying out the terrorist operations they have been asked to perform.

High-level instructions have been issued banning the revelation of the organization members' names or details of their confessions until the investigations are concluded and they have been referred to the public prosecution office. AL-WAFD, which published this, has learned that around four million pounds were seized with the terrorists, which they received from foreign countries to carry out a plan to damage tourism in Egypt.

The security organs have also obtained new information from the arrested members confirming that al-Jihad Organization Amir Dr. 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman has planned all the recent operations in Egypt targeting tourism, the planting of explosives in public places, and the assassination of a number of leading figures.

Said Linked to Arrested 'Extremists'

NC2103205593 Paris AFP in English 2010 GMT 21 Mar 93

[Text] Cairo, March 21 (AFP) - Authorities arrested 25 Muslim extremists who tried to enter Egypt from Libya and who planned to carry out attacks ordered by a shaykh linked to the World Trade Center bombing, police said Sunday [21 March].

The 25, all suspected members of the outlawed al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah [The Islamic Group], were arrested at the al-Sallum border post on Saturday after they tried to enter Egypt with false passports, police said.

Trained in Afghanistan, they had instructions from Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman, the spiritual guide of Muslim fundamentalists in Egypt, to commit "terrorist acts" in Egypt, police said.

Shaykh 'Umar lives in the United States and a suspect in February's World Trade Center bombing in New York reportedly attended his mosque in New Jersey.

Police said the 25 had been trained by the main Egyptian fundamentalists abroad: Ayman al-Zawahiri, Muhammad al-Islambuli (brother of President Anwar al-Sadat's assassin), 'Ali al-Rashidi and Ahmad Mabruk. Egyptian police suspect they are in Afghanistan.

Family Banned From Traveling

NC2103130693 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1235 GMT 21 Mar 93

[Text] Cairo, 21 Mar (MENA)—Security authorities at Cairo airport this morning banned the family of Dr. 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman from leaving the country and traveling to Jeddah to perform the minor pilgrimage.

This was stated by a responsible security source at the airport. It said that while the procedures for the departure of the Egyptian plane to Jeddah were being completed, the passport officer was surprised to see Dr. 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman's wife Fatin Muhammad Ahmad, and her children 'Abdallah, 'Ammar, Khadijah, and Asma' completing their procedures for traveling to Jeddah. They were carrying an entry visa issued by the Saudi Embassy in Cairo. The officer informed airport officials. The source added that an order was issued banning Dr. 'Abd-al-Rahman's family from traveling.

'Abd-al-Rahman, 46 Others To Be Retried 6 Apr

NC2103132593 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1300 GMT 21 Mar 93

[Text] Al-Fayyum, 21 Mar (MENA)—The Emergency Supreme State Security Court in al-Fayyum has set 6 April as the date for retrying al-Jihad Organization Mufti Dr. 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman and 46 others involved in the incidents that occurred in the al-Shuhada' mosque in April 1989.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Rahman had called for organizing an antiregime demonstration after Friday prayers that day. The demonstrators carried firearms and ammunition and used force against the police, wounding al-Fayyum police station chief Colonel Muhammad Sayf-al- Islam and Private Sha'ban 'Abdallah.

The military magistrate had refused to endorse the acquittal issued by the Emergency Supreme State Security Court in the fairgrounds in Madinat Nasr in 1990. The court requested the security directorate in the city of al-Fayyum to enquire about the addresses of nine police officers who witnessed the incidents so that they can give their testimony in the retrial.

Extremists on Trial Threaten Reprisals on France

NC2103213993 Paris AFP in English 2039 GMT 21 Mar 93

[Text] Cairo, March 21 (AFP) - Muslim extremists on trial in Egypt said France "will pay the price" for what they called French interference in the internal affairs of Islamic states, sources at the trial said Sunday [21 March].

"France interferes in the internal affairs of Islamic states," one of the accused was quoted as saying before Saturday's session began in Cairo's High Military Court.

"The hostile French position on Islam reminds us of the Crusades. France will pay the price. It gave us the right," he was quoted as saying.

The accused issued the statement when he and the others—held within a metal cage in the courtroom—had been talking to their lawyers before the session opened. After he began speaking, the others surrounded him to prevent his being photographed and identified by authorities.

The statement came after the French Foreign Ministry said Thursday that France stood by the Egyptian Government as it experienced a wave of fundamentalist-related violence.

A lawyer for the 49 suspects, Mustafa Sa'id, told AFP Sunday "it wasn't a threat to strike French interests in Egypt."

Referring to the Foreign Ministry statement, he added: "We wanted to stress that France and the West are hostile to the (fundamentalists)" and that they are taking a stand against them with the Egyptian Government.

The 49 are accused of involvement in attacks on tourists in Egypt and have been on trial since March 9.

Student Killed; Detainee Said Tortured to Death

NC2003164093 Paris AFP in English 1600 GMT 20 Mar 93

[Excerpts] Asyut, Egypt, March 20 (AFP) - A university student suspected of membership of Egypt's extremist al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah [The Islamic Group] movement was killed here Saturday [20 March] in a clash with police, police said, though neighbors claimed security forces just broke into his house and shot him.

Police said that Ahmad Khalaf Mahmud, 21, a pharmacy student at Asyut University in Upper (southern) Egypt was killed after resisting arrest and that a gun was found in his house.

But residents in the neighborhood told AFP there was no exchange of fire and that Mahmud was killed by policemen who just broke down his door.

Elsewhere, about 50 suspected Muslim fundamentalists were arrested Saturday in Asyut where police have been carrying out wide search operations for four extremists wanted by authorities and who are thought to be dangerous. [passage omitted]

In another development, the Egyptian Human Rights Organization (EHRO) accused Egyptian police of torturing to death a political detainee suspected of membership in a clandestine fundamentalist organization.

In a report on human rights violations in Cairo's slum district of Imbabah, the EHRO said that Muhammad Hamidu al-Sawi, 23, who worked for a food sales company had been tortured to death in one of the central security's two detention centers 25 kilometers (16 miles) from Cairo on the desert road to the northern port of Alexandria.

EHRO said al-Sawi was arrested on December 9 in Imbabah, during a police sweep of the neighborhood, a stronghold of fundamentalists.

His family were kept uninformed as to his whereabouts until December 19 when policemen announced his death to them and asked his brother to sign a statement saying the detainee had committed suicide.

Only al-Sawi's brother, surrounded by police, was allowed to attend his burial, the organization said.

The EHRO said al-Sawi's name had appeared on a list of 13 people indicted by the prosecution for membership in an illegal organization and for arms possession.

The list, it added, was published by the three official dailies which said that the 13 men had been placed in temporary detention for 15 days at the end of which

al-Sawi's name had disappeared from the lineup. His name has not been mentioned since in the investigation.

Twenty-Five Arrested in Asyut

NC2103113293 Cairo AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY in Arabic 1034 GMT 21 Mar 93

[Text] Cairo, 21 Mar (MENA)—Security agencies in Asyut have continued their campaign to capture the fugitive terrorists in Asyut city and some other areas. After storming their hideouts, security men arrested twenty-five extremists involved in some recent terrorist events. Large quantities of leaflets and tapes in their possession were seized.

In this connection, Ahmad Khalaf, a Pharmacy College student and leader of an extremist group in the college, died during the swift campaign to arrest him along with some of his colleagues. He jumped out the window of his second-floor apartment when he saw policemen breaking into the furnished apartment where he was hiding. He died instantly, having sustained head fractures. When the apartment was searched, a large quantity of antiregime leaflets urging further attacks against policemen was found. A responsible source has said that the leaflets found at the defendant's apartment could fill a pickup truck. They were ready for distribution during 'Id al-Fitr. A number of cassettes containing sermons by Dr. 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman and urging extremists to escalate violence against the government and society were also found.

Libya

UN Head: Escalation if Resolution Not Implemented

NC2103105293 Paris AFP in English 0954 GMT 21 Mar 93

[Text] Abu Dhabi, March 21 (AFP)—United Nations Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali has urged Libya to implement a Security Council resolution on the Lockerbie bombing and warned the situation could escalate.

Butrus-Ghali said he was exerting "intensive" efforts to defuse tension between the West and Libya over the 1988 bombing of a U.S. airliner over Lockerbie, Scotland, in which 270 people were killed.

"I fear the situation concerning Libya is heading for escalation unless the Security Council resolution is implemented," Butrus-Ghali told the United Arab Emirates (UAE) daily AL-ITTIHAD in an interview published Saturday [20 March].

On Friday, an Arab League committee urged Washington, London and Paris to accept Libya's pledges to cooperate in the investigations of the Lockerbie bombing and a 1989 explosion aboard a French civilian airliner.

The United States and Britain have sought the extradition to the West of two Libyans in connection with Lockerbie, while France has also named Libyan suspects for the 1989 blast which killed 170 people.

Libya has offered to hand over the two Lockerbie suspects to a neutral country for either investigation or trial and said it was also prepared to cooperate with France. But the West has so far rejected the offers.

The Arab League secretary general, 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, said after the committee meeting in Tunis that it had appointed him to contact the Security Council and secretary-general to "work to find a peaceful solution."

Since April 1992, Libya has been under U.N. arms, air traffic and diplomatic sanctions after the Security Council accused it of not cooperating with investigations into the bombings.

Report on al-Qadhdhafi Attack on Opposition Denied

LD2003171993 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1435 GMT 20 Mar 93

[Text] Tripoli, 20 Mar (JANA)—The local affairs editor has strongly denied reports by MENA according to which Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi has attacked what it called the Libyan opposition abroad.

The editor affirmed that there was nothing at all called an opposition because the problem of power in Libya has been completely solved by handing over power to the people. There is, therefore, no government acting on behalf of the people, and there is no opposition to it. The one who opposes a situation such as that in the Great Jamahiriyah, based on the Jamahiri system, opposes the people who practice power in their People's Congresses, in which they decide what they want and implement what they decide through their People's Committees.

EC-AMU Partnership Agreement Ridiculed

LD2003215593 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 2030 GMT 20 Mar 93

[Text] Manuel Marin, the EC vice president and official in charge of cooperation with the southern Mediterranean countries, said that the European-AMU [Arab Maghreb Union] partnership agreement, which the EC wishes to sign with the AMU countries, aims at including the region within the EC economic sphere.

JANA's Arab affairs editor ridiculed this statement. He stresses that the statement represents a mentality governed by colonialist background, and indicates a clear tendency to hegemony and imposing control.

The editor states that any agreement to be held between the countries of the region and the EEC should be based on equality, mutual interests, and respect for sovereignty. These conditions basically require the other side to be free of the superiority complex which stems from the colonialist era.

The editor also stresses that the Arab countries have their Arab sphere in which they can integrate on their way toward their comprehensive unity, which is sufficient on its own to stop any attempt against the sovereignty and freedom of the Arab nation.

Sudan

Armed Forces Statement on Cease-Fire Call

EA2003152493 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 0315 GMT 20 Mar 93

[Statement issued by the General Command of the People's Armed Forces; date and place not given]

[Text] On 18 March the media reported the wish of rebel John Garang's faction of the rebel movement for a cease-fire. Inasmuch as the Sudanese Government recognizes the importance of the peace process, as well as the existence of a climate conducive to the success of the second round of the Abuja negotiations, it also declares a cease-fire, in spite of the fact that the armed forces have already begun to move towards completing their Summer Crossing Operation.

However, the government stresses that its past cease-fire declarations were badly exploited by the rebel movement for cross- border military preparations and to gain military advantages in the field. The rebel movement thereby enabled itself to attack the Sudanese Army and occupy new positions from which it subjected the local civilians to the worst types of tyranny, depriving them of food and impelling them to emigrate or take refuge, thus disrupting peaceful civilian life and exacerbating the dispute afresh.

The cease-fire we are declaring by way of this statement will not apply to administrative and logistical action on the part of the Sudanese Armed Forces, nor to the transportation of relief materials to the citizens. Any attempt to obstruct such operations, to exploit this declaration to effect cross-border military preparations or to achieve military advantages in the field will be treated as a cease-fire violation and will be confronted with the decisiveness required to safeguard the security of the citizens and the armed forces and to uphold the peace beginning to manifest itself over the greater part of the southern states.

The movement calls on the rebel movement to keep the peace and to adhere to the resolutions of the first Abuja negotiations in good faith in order to facilitate a serious dialogue to rescue the country from the scourge of this 10 year-old war.

More on SPLA Ramadan Declaration

AB1903115593 Nairobi KNA in English 0855 GMT 19 Mar 93

[Text] Harare, 18 Mar (PANA/KNA)— The leader of the Sudan People's Liberation Army [SPLA], Col John Garang, on Wednesday [17 March] announced a unilateral cease-fire to advance the peace process and honour the Muslim holiday of Id al-Fitr.

A statement released in Harare by the SPLA office said all SPLA combatants had been ordered to cease all offensive military operations against government forces except (?in) self-defence as from 1500 hours Sudanese time [1300 GMT] on Wednesday [17 March].

The cease-fire is intended to provide a conducive atmosphere for the forthcoming Abuja-2 peace talks following the Entebbe agreement [on 23 February] between the SPLM [Sudanese People's Liberation Movement]/SPLA and the Sudan Government. "The cease-fire is also in honour of the occasion of the end of the holy month Ramadan, so that our Muslim community [can] celebrate their Id al-Fitr holidays in peace," the statement said.

The southern-based rebel movement and the military government of Gen ['Umar] al-Bashir met last month in Kampala [as received; meeting was in Entebbe] and agreed to proceed to Abuja for more talks.

In announcing the cease-fire, Garang asked the Khartoum government to reciprocate by stopping all military operations.

ICRC Authorized To Resume Operations in South

EA2203104093 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1545 GMT 21 Mar 93

[Text] Khartoum, 21 Mar (SUNA)—A memorandum of understanding was signed here between the Sudanese Government and the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC]. Ambassador 'Umar Yusuf Baridu, secretary of the Foreign Ministry, signed for Sudan, while Mr. (Gilbert Doubleshed), the ICRC representative in Khartoum, signed for the ICRC.

The agreement authorizes the Red Cross to resume its operations in the southern states after they had been suspended for a year. [passage indistinct] The agreement reflected the wish of the two sides to establish positive and constructive relations to serve the common objective of relieving the innocent citizens of their burdens in the operational zones. The memorandum referred to the adherence by the ICRC and its employees to Sudanese law and to neutrality and independence and provides for their pursuing their operations openly regarding war victims, the wounded, captives, the lost, and children kidnapped from their families by the rebel movement.

The memorandum confirmed both sides' agreement on the need for continuing bilateral dialogue and cooperation, in that the ICRC will provide full information about its current activities and implement its operations only after receiving official sanction from the government and the relevant authorities. The memorandum referred to the current cooperation between the ICRC and the Sudanese Red Crescent society, noting that that cooperation must continue and be strengthened.

Islamic Leader on Contacts With Maghreb

PM2203111493 Paris LIBERATION in French 17 Mar 93 p 24

[Interview with Sudanese Government adviser Hasan al-Turabi by Gilles Millet in Khartoum; date not given]

[Text] Khartoum—In Cairo, Tunis, and Algiers, and in various Western capitals, he is seen as the devil; the representative of a conquering Islam which is violently seeking its way between the Iranian Shi'ite revolution, whose subsidies it enjoyed for a time, and the Saudi Sunni establishment, from which his support for Saddam during the Gulf war alienated him; his training and test ground is Sudan, his country which he has tried to lead secretly via his many allies within the state apparatus. His preferred area of activity is Africa, and particularly the Maghreb, where he has many admirers.

Although his fiercest enemies see him as a kind of guru of the Islamic terrorist international, 61-year old Hasan al-Turabi says he is merely a "thinker," an intellectual who has been made famous in all Muslim countries by his knowledge and his extensive travels. However, this ideologue, a graduate of the University of London and the Sorbonne, whose dialectics are more reminiscent of a Western thinker who has chosen Islam as an area of theoretical investigation than that of an imam who has had and still has contacts with the reality of power. Dean of the faculty of law in Khartoum, he was justice minister then foreign minister in the regime of Ja'far Numayri, the former Sudanese leader, before becoming the influential adviser of the present military junta headed by General al-Bashir. And although his party, the National Islamic Front, is banned (like all the other political parties), al-Turabi's Islamic friends, most of them members of the "Sudanese branch" of the Muslim Brotherhood, are in a majority in the government, and many are in the army and the civil service.

The Sudanese Government's eminence grise adores Western journalists and photographers. After the "marxism" and "nationalism" so dear to Arab elites in the sixties, Islam represents a "real progressive advance" according to him. Not just any kind of Islam of course. Not that of the Iranians who, "obsessed by the destruction of the old regime, were forced to go through a reign of terror" without having "any real maturity as regards values." Nor that of the Saudis where "the family which took power has become a monarchy," in which "public finances are not run in an Islamic way" and where "the position of women is very bad."

"Sudanese-style" Islam is, he said, "an experiment which is in its early days." The Shari'ah, the Islamic law, must be "decentralized" and adapted to the regions and customs "so that the minorities are protected." The proof of this is: "Catholics can only be judged according to their own laws, and not those of Islam." As for the dress and cultural habits prevailing in the Islamic north "no law obliges people to dress in the Islamic way and the non-Muslims who wish to drink can do so at home."

The fact remains that the gap between the leader's statements and the reactions of the grass-roots Islamic militants in Khartoum is wide.

When the many human rights violations in Sudan condemned by the international organizations are mentioned, al-Turabi, without denying "blunders" which he says are inherent in the civil war between the army and the various rebel factions of the south ("you know what soldiers are like...."), retorted: "I am well aware of the way in which the Western countries behaved with regard to freedoms in wartime, and unfortunately they cannot teach us anything." Aside from that, Hasan al-Turabi strongly denies that Sudan serves as a rear base for Maghreb Islamic terrorists, and the presence of Iranian military fighters in the south. This denial is confirmed by various Western or Maghreb diplomatic or military sources in Khartoum. Here is the interview.

[Millet] What are Sudan's relations and your personal relations with the Islamic movements of neighboring countries like Algeria or Tunisia whose ideologue you are sometimes said to be?

[Al-Turabi] Those movements are not part of a single central organization of which I or another would be the leader. There are different leaders for different movements in different countries which have their specific problems. I speak French, English, a little German, and obviously Arabic very well, and I have written a number of books. I have also take part in seminars, conferences in Indonesia, China, and Japan, in all the Asian, Arab, and African countries, everywhere.... That is why I am very well known in the Muslim world. But I am not a pope. In Islam we do not have a church. I am more the person who prompts others to start thinking themselves....

Sudan is not known in history as a great Muslim country. However, although it has been a poor country, because exploited, it is a country which has enormous potential. It is a very vast country, the biggest in Africa with 10 border countries. Without being able to claim a rich historical heritage, it was able to resist British domination and many Muslims were impressed by that. They are interested in the Sudanese model, even if our experiment is not complete.

[Millet] What do you think of the Islamic movements which are said to be close to you? The Egyptian Islamic movement, the Algerian Islamic Salvation Front [FIS], and the Tunisian Ennadha movement?

[Al-Turabi] Historically speaking, Egypt has a richer Islamic heritage than Sudan or North Africa. The government has always been very repressive and its action eventually radicalized new Islamic movements which have become much less political revolutionary resistance fighters than the members of the Muslim Brotherhood. Their very aggressive practices are developing in a context of major conflict between the government and society. Indeed, Egypt is overpopulated, its economy is not performing well, and the country is not democratic.

In Algeria, Arabic and Islamic culture were strongly repressed by French policy. This explains the Algerians' strong reaction during the war of liberation. After the revolution, a succession of political leaders turned to replacement cultures like socialism and communism, without proposing any real plan for society in agreement with the country.

When I visited Algeria, I was terribly impressed by the return of young Algerians to religion. It was a purely emotional feeling. The local Islamic movement was therefore designed to represent them. Its leaders did not have a program. The FIS did not represent a real alternative. That is what I conveyed to Abassi Madani when I met him. As regards their vision of society, the Algerian Islamic movment has "salafist" [reference to Egyptian Islamic reform movement founded by Mohammed 'Abduh (1849-1905)] moral concepts which are often repressive, especially toward women.

In Tunisia it is a different matter. Rached Ghannouchi, the leader of Ennadha, is a man who is a little more liberal than most of the Islamic leaders in other Arab countries. I met him and other leaders of the movement. They are men of dialogue. They can be trusted to draw up a program for Tunisia. Moreover, there is nobody but them. Unfortunately, Ben Ali has eliminated them.

[Millet] To be more specific, has Sudan helped or is it helping some of these Islamic parties, especially the Maghreb parties?

[Al-Turabi] Absolutely. But we cannot give them financial help. If we went to the Bank of Sudan this morning, I do not think there would be $5 million in the coffers. The country is very poor. We can therefore only export one thing: our experience. But you in Europe have far more resources than us. Everything is dominated by the press, the radio, and television. You have the means of exporting your ideas. We do not....

Bahrain

Amir Appoints Communications, State Ministers

JN2103122693 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1120 GMT 21 Mar 93

[Excerpt] Manama, 21 Mar (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah, amir of Bahrain, has issued a decree appointing Shaykh 'Ali Bin-Khalifah Bin-Salman Al Khalifah as minister of communications and Muhammad Ibrahim al-Mutawwa' as minister of state for cabinet affairs. [passage omitted]

Kuwait

Army Clears Away Explosives, Ammunition, Mines

LD2103154793 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1402 GMT 21 Mar 93

[Text] Kuwait, 21 Mar (KUNA)—The directorate of moral guidance in the Army has stated that the engineering directorate and the teams of the directorate specialized in tackling the remains left by the treacherous enemy, this week destroyed 722 tons of various ammunition and explosives. They transported 254 tons of this ammunition and explosives to Kuwaiti Army stores. Thus the total amounts dealt with were 976 tons.

As for mines it has been possible to deal with 13,387 mines, varying from antipersonnel to antitank types planted by the defeated enemy. [passage omitted]

Assembly Rejects Decree on Document Secrecy

PM1903112593 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 17 Mar 93 p 7

[Unattributed report: "Kuwaiti Parliament Rejects Decree on Official Documents Secrecy"]

[Text] Kuwait, AL-HAYAH—The National Assembly (parliament) has rejected the amiri decree on secret state documents, which was issued in 1988 during the Assembly's dissolution. The decree was supported only by government members, who obtained five votes against 35 votes for opposition members and a number of traditional government supporters.

In view of this decision, the government will have to rescind the decree immediately. The executive is expected to submit an alternative plan to be referred to the Assembly in the coming months.

During the discussion of the decree the legislative committee submitted a report in which it rejected the government's justifications. It said that "entrusting the competent ministers with the secrecy of documents and information can only be done on a very limited scale and under general rules that prevent the ministers from misusing this power, on the grounds that it is exceptional." The government failed to persuade the Assembly to continue to implement the decree until an alternative is prepared. And the head of the legislative committee rejected this request, regarding it as an attempt by the executive to endorse the error.

Meanwhile, Deputy Dr. Ahmad al-Khatib (Liberal) has criticized Defense Minister Shaykh 'Ali al-Sabah and accused him of obtaining a commission exceeding 20 percent when the recent military deals were signed. He said that those admitted to the police college a few months ago paid bribery to join the military corps. Al-Khatib said that "the reason for the secrecy of information at the Defense Ministry is to cover up the 'thieves" thefts and punish the honorable."

Deputy Muhammad al-Murshid (independent) said that "some members of the present government do not know all political or economic matters," pointing to "the existence of two governments: one official and the other running its business secretly."

National Assembly Deputy Speaker Salih al-Fadalah warned that some of the foreign employees working the offices of some ministers could submit intelligence reports to their states without the government's knowledge.

Dr. Nasir al-Sani' (Islamic Constitutional Movement) said that "the government is not at the required level of secrecy." He challenged the government to "provide any secret information known to no one."

Saudi Arabia

Egyptian President Husni Mubarak Visits Kingdom

Arrives in Jeddah 19 Mar

LD2003001593 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2330 GMT 19 Mar 93

[Text] Jeddah, 19 Mar (SPA)—His Excellency Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak and his accompanying delegation arrived in Jeddah this evening on a visit to the Kingdom during which he will perform the minor pilgrimage. [passage omitted]

Visits Medina

LD2103120693 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0915 GMT 21 Mar 93

[Excerpt] Medina, 21 Mar (SPA)—His Excellency Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak arrived in Medina from Jeddah before dawn today as part of his present visit to the Kingdom for the minor pilgrimage and for a visit to the mosque of the Prophet Muhammad. [passage omitted]

Meets With King

LD2203051193 Riyadh SPA in English 1225 GMT 21 Mar 93

[Excerpts] Mecca, March 21, SPA—Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz hosted a banquet at al-Safa Palace in Mecca last night in honour of Egyptian President Husni Mubarak and his accompanying delegation. [passage omitted]

King Fahd and President Mubarak then held a meeting at al-Safa Palace. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, President Husni Mubarak offered Salat al-Fajr (dawn prayers) this morning at the blessed mosque of Prophet Mohammed (peace be upon him) in Medina. [passage omitted]

President Mubarak and his accompanying delegation arrived in Medina early Sunday from Jeddah as part of a current visit to the Kingdom during which he also performed umrah (the minor pilgrimage) at the grand mosque of Mecca. [passage omitted]

On his departure from Mecca to Jeddah last night enroute to Medina, President Mubarak was seen off by Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz al Sa'ud. The delegation for the send off also included Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, Prince Majid Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, 'Ali al-Sha'ir and senior civil and military officials.

* Afghan Talks Delegation Visits Leaders

93AS0607B London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 9 Mar 93 pp 1, 4

[Article by 'Abdallah al-Hajj in Jeddah and Ahmad Muwaffaq Zaydan and Jamal Isma'il in Islamabad: "Further Consultations Between Rabbani and Hekmatyar To Overcome Obstacles"]

[Excerpts] Participants in the Afghan peace talks went to Saudi Arabia yesterday to perform the minor pilgrimage rites and to acquaint King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, with the accord that was signed by the mojahedin leaders in Islamabad two days ago. [passage omitted]

Informed sources have said that the Afghan delegation included President Rabbani; Engineer Golboddin Hekmatyar; former President Sebghatollah Mojaddedi; Ahmad Gaylani, leader of the Islamic National Front; Shaykh Mohammad Nabi Mohammadi; and Shaykh Yunes Khales. These sources said that King Fahd may meet today with the Afghan leaders either in the honorable Mecca or at al-Salam Palace in Jeddah.

Prince Turki al-Faysal, King Fahd's personal envoy to the peace talks, received the Afghan leaders upon their arrival in Medina. Informed sources reported that the leaders may issue a proclamation, named the Honorable Mecca Proclamation, to reaffirm their peace accord.

Saudi sources have said that King Fahd will urge the Afghan leaders to adhere to the accord they have concluded in order to end the bloodshed and to devote their efforts in the difficult coming phase to developing their country and economy and to restoring what has been damaged by the war. The sources added that the "Afghan leaders will, in turn, convey to King Fahd their profound thanks for his continued support for the Afghan cause since start of the jihad against the former Soviet Union and for the personal position he took in supporting them against communism."

Speaking to AL-HAYAH, an Afghan source denied that Defense Minister Ahmad Shah plans to oppose the decision to oust him from the ministry and to resort to the use of force. He said that Mas'ud has responded to the leaders' position and has expressed his agreement to step aside so that he will not cause sedition among the mujahidun ranks. The source added, "Feelings of resentment have been experienced in all popular circles, especially in the decisionmaking council, because they have felt that President Rabbani and the other leaders have surpassed them by concluding the Islamabad accord and removing Ahmad Shah Mas'ud."

Qaribur Rahman Said, director of the AFGHAN NEWS AGENCY, which is the media outlet of the Hezb-e Eslami, warned that the "communist generals" may try to obstruct the implementation of the peace accord. In a statement to AL-HAYAH, Said added that armed groups following General (in the defunct communist regime) Babajan have begun to open fire on Hezb-e positions in Char Asiab, south of Kabul.

He said that 25 people were killed in the area two nights ago, and he accused the defense minister of handing over 66 military positions to General Babajan. He also accused the defense minister of reinforcing his positions in Kabul by bringing in 300 fighters from the northern part of the country. These statements were made after Yunes Qanuni, the Defense Ministry official spokesman who is close to Mas'ud, had admitted that Mas'ud has made military preparations in the provinces under his control in the north and that he will not give up his position.

Hamid Gul, a retired Pakistani general and former chief of the military intelligence, returned to Kabul yesterday to observe the cease-fire, which was violated again two days ago when government forces and Hezb-e Eslami forces exchanged rocket and artillery fire south of the capital. Gul told AL-HAYAH that he expects the accord to be implemented and that Mas'ud will take part with the other leaders in applying it. Gul characterized the Afghan defense minister as a "sincere man who will give priority to the country's and to the Afghan people's interest." As for the possibility that Uzbekistan will support Abdol Rashid Dostam's Uzbek militias to violate the accord, Gul said: "Uzbekistan understands perfectly well the lesson that the British and the Soviets learned in Afghanistan. Two major powers were defeated in the same century by the Afghan people, who unite

promptly against any foreign enemy." He expressed the belief that Dostam will try to improve his position and to join the government, instead of confronting it.

The Islamic Conference Organization announced yesterday that it is proud that the Afghan leaders have entrusted it with observing the cease-fire in Kabul and with putting an end to military activities there. The organization said that Dr. Hamid al-Ghabid, its secretary general, will meet with the Afghani leaders in the honorable Mecca to exchange ideas with them on the mechanism of the peace-keeping arrangements which have been entrusted to it. A joint committee formed of representatives of the organization and of the Afghan factions will supervise the cease-fire in Kabul.

Editorial Sees Western Media 'Attacking' Islam

LD2103190393 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0313 GMT 21 Mar 93

[Excerpts] [no dateline as received] In its editorial entitled "Western Media's Motives for Attacking Islam," AL-MADINAH said:

The Islamic Education, Scientific, and Cultural Organization's [IESCO] condemnation of the misleading attack mounted these days by Western media channels against Islam was a true expression of the Islamic conscience, which is following Western media attempts to press charges against Islam and its culture and followers through a vile exploitation of the destruction of the World Trade Center in New York and the subsequent legal proceedings.

The organization stressed that the Western media's exploitation under these circumstances and in this way has raised and continues to raise many questions. The first question is regarding that incident. Specifically, the media stepped outside its well-known media tradition of not making an accusation before anything had been proven. For reasons known to themselves, this time the media picked up the accusation made against Muhammad Salamah, a Muslim Arab, and turned it against the Islamic faith. That was a deliberate—even premeditated—course, because Western culture, with its traditional liberalism and belief in logic and reasoning, were aware that the delinquency and deviation of individuals could not be construed as a signal to condemn their society or faith. [passage omitted]

It concluded by saying that the cultural gap that exists between the West and the East in general, and specifically between Islam and Western culture—which knows nothing more than a tiny speck about Islam—is due mainly to distortion and the objectives of orientalists. However, it is not acceptable to us that that gap should become a stay for the Western media in their attempt to harm Islam and Muslims.

Islamic Group Protests 'Misleading Media Campaign'

LD2103173393 Riyadh SPA in English 1231 GMT 20 Mar 93

[Text] Riyadh, March 20, SPA—The Islamic Education, Sciences and Culture Organization (ISESCO) has sharply protested the misleading media campaign being waged by the Western mass media to insult Islam, Muslims and the Islamic civilization.

A statement issued by the organization on Friday accused the western media of ignoring offenses and terrorist acts being commited by some Christian, Jewish, Buddhists and Hindu fanatical groups worldwide and said the western media do not attribute such terrorist and violent acts to the religions of offenders.

Dr Abdulaziz al-Tewaijri, the director general of the organization attracted the attention of the international community to the fact that the Islamic faith does not approve the behaviour of some people who claims to be Muslims and acts against the true precepts of Islam. "The sole reference and guide of true Muslims is the teachings of the holy Quran and the blessed Sunnah (Sayings of the Prophet).

Dr al-Tewaijri urged the Western journalists and newsmen to be fair when tackling such sensitive matters. He denounced all kinds of terrorism, violence and fanatical acts.

United Arab Emirates

Police Commander Blames India for Suspects' Escape

NC2103104693 Paris AFP in English 1034 GMT 21 Mar 93

[Report by Nadim Kawash]

[Text] Abu Dhabi, March 21 (AFP)—A police commander in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) on Sunday blamed India for the escape from the southern Gulf state of two suspects in the deadly Bombay explosions of March 12.

Brigadier Dahi Khalfan, quoted by local newspapers, said the suspected Memon brothers had flown to a neighbouring Gulf country after reading of the accusations against them in the press.

Diplomats said they travelled to Saudi Arabia but the Indian ambassador in Riyadh, Ishrat Aziz, refused to confirm or deny the report.

"To be honest, I must say that the Indian authorities erred in releasing the names and pictures of the alleged conspirators, even before seeking any assistance from their counterparts in Dubayy," Khalfan said.

"It amounted to warning them about their impending arrests," said the Dubayy police chief.

The rare attack on India came after Yaqub and Ismail Memon left Dubayy after a five-day stay and New Delhi asked the UAE to hand them over.

But Khalfan said police in Dubayy, the second biggest UAE emirate, had not been approached by Indian authorities.

"They have assumed on the basis of past extradition requests that the Dubayy police will automatically arrest them. This resulted in a total lack of coordination," KHALEEJ TIMES quoted Khalfan as saying.

"Although the Indian government would not have cooperated with us under such circumstances and has not extradited anyone to us, had we received an official request for extradition on time, we would have apprehended the suspects and handed them over to the Indian government."

Khalfan listed seven cases in which New Delhi had turned down extradition requests from Dubayy. In contrast, he said, Dubayy authorities promptly handed over six Sikh hijackers in 1984.

"During my 24 years as Dubayy police chief, there had not been a single instance of India granting a request for the extradition of anybody wanted by the Dubayy police," he said.

India and the UAE maintain strong political and economic relations and about 350,000 Indians live in the Emirates.

Many of them have established lucrative businesses in Dubayy, including Bombay underworld king, Dawood Ibrahim, who was also linked to the March 12 series of blasts which killed about 300 people.

India's ambassador in the UAE, Ranjit Sethi, told reporters that Khalfan's criticism would not affect ties. "India and the UAE will continue to maintain strong relations and cooperation. This problem will have no impact on relations," he said.

Zayid Receives Letter From Turkey's Demirel

JN2203083593 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0630 GMT 22 Mar 93

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 22 Mar (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan, president of the United Arab Emirates [UAE], has received a letter from Turkish Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel on bilateral relations. UAE Deputy Prime Minister Shaykh Sultan Bin-Zayid received the message during a meeting last night with Burhan Tansil [name as received], director general of the International Organizations Desk at the Turkish Foreign Ministry, who is visiting the UAE within a tour of regional states.

Paper Says U.S. Report Timed to Embargo Review

JN2203094093 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0736 GMT 22 Mar 93

[Text] Baghdad, 22 Mar (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH has called on the UN Security Council to reconsider its unjust attitude toward the illegitimate blockade imposed on the Iraqi people and to adopt a fair, objective, and responsible stand on it.

In an article today entitled "A Ridiculous Report and Exposed Objectives," AL-THAWRAH, newspaper of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, says: We were not surprised by the ridiculous report, which is full of false allegations and charges. Nor were we surprised by the Western media, which jumped on it and began to promote it. This is because we realize that the date is approaching for the UN Security Council's review of the economic blockade on Iraq.

The paper adds that Western political and media circles routinely fabricate and propagate such reports through the media whenever the time approaches for the UN Security Council to review the inhuman blockade that they have been imposing on the Iraqi people for over two and a half years.

The paper affirms that behind this report there are wicked political motives and objectives that have nothing to do with Resolution 687. This is because the objective is not only to continue the unjust blockade, but also to put pressure on Iraq and influence its people's will and options.

The paper points out that Iraq has met all the obligations and measures that have been imposed on it in accordance with Resolution 687, despite the fact that it involves a great deal of arbitrariness and injustice. However, it is quite evident that the imperialist West, led by America, still insists on maintaining the iniquitous blockade and perpetuating the suffering of the Iraqi people under the stress of starvation, poverty, and lack of medicine.

The paper continues: It is an exposed, periodic, political game played by the U.S. and Western administrations and the media affiliated with them with the aim of weakening the national will of the Iraqi people. However, this is what the enemies will never be able to achieve.

Concluding its article, the paper affirms that the colonialist game will be defeated because it cannot achieve any of its evil objectives no matter how many reports are issued and no matter how many lies and fabrications they contain.

Kurdish Radio on Regime's Execution of Officer

NC2103170993 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1600 GMT 21 Mar 93

[Text] According to reliable reports from Nineveh, the dictatorial regime executed Captain 'Abbud al-Jibari on 18 March. The execution was carried out upon the personal instructions of the dictator himself.

Saddam Receives Cable of 'Loyalty' From Kurds

JN2003210393 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2016 GMT 20 Mar 93

[Text] Baghdad, 20 Mar (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has received a cable of congratulations from the Kurdish masses on the occasion of Nowruz [Persian new year] and the blessed 'Id al-Fitr.

In their cable, the Kurdish masses renew loyalty to President Saddam Husayn and stress that they are standing behind his excellency to further raise the banner of the homeland and destroy the conspiracies of the vile enemies and their traitorous lackeys, who are lowly carrying out the chapters of the American-Zionist conspiracy against the Iraqi people—Arabs and Kurds.

The cable also says: The dark cloud that covered the clear skies of Kurdistan shows the extent of agentry and meanness of this criminal clique, which conspired against the Iraqi Arabs and Kurds, which shed the blood of Kurds and Arabs, and which has become a cheap puppet, used by the United States and Zionism as they wish to destroy Iraq and hurt the aspirations of Kurds in Iraq, Turkey, Iran, and Syria.

The cable adds that in these eternal days the Kurdish people, as well as all other good people, prove their firm adherence to Iraq's unity and their march under the banner of President Saddam Husayn.

Regime Aircraft Fly Over Kurdistan 20 Mar

NC2103173293 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1600 GMT 21 Mar 93

[Text] Regime aircraft flew over Kifri at low altitude between 0800 and 1200 yesterday. The aim of the enemy was to intimidate and terrorize the citizens. The regime's aircraft broke the sound barrier several times.

Kurds, Turks To Prevent PKK From Entering North

NC2003145693 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1400 GMT 20 Mar 93

[Text] Iraqi Kurdish sources have stated that [Kurdistan Democratic Party leader] Mas'ud Barzani met with the commander of the Turkish forces last week. During the meeting, it was agreed that Iraqi Kurds will establish 12 new military posts on the border with Turkey to prevent members of the Turkish Kurdish Workers Party [PKK] from seeking refuge in northern Iraq while they are under the hot pursuit of the Turkish forces.

Kurdish Party Urges Expelling 'Outlawed Elements'

JN2003142893 Baghdad INA in English 1400 GMT 20 Mar 93

[Text] Baghdad, Mar. 20, INA—The Kurdistan Democratic Party on Friday called on the Kurdish people to get rid of the outlawed elements controlling Kurdistan and the return of law and order in northern Iraq.

In a statement issued on the occasion of Kurdish spring festival on March 21, the party said elements backed by foreign powers stole property which belonged to Iraqi Kurds and sold them to foreigners.

The statement said without the July 17, 1968 revolution, Kurds would not have been able to gain their cultural, political and social rights.

The Kurdistan Democratic Party said the March 11 manifesto offered a peaceful settlement to the Kurdish issues.

Meanwhile, a big celebration was held in Khakurk on Friday to mark the March 21 spring festival.

Official Comments on Crime Situation in Kurdistan

JN2103174893 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1220 GMT 21 Mar 93

[Text] Baghdad, 21 Mar (INA)—Tal'at Hadi Ahmad, deputy speaker of the Legislative Council of the Kurdistan Autonomous Region, has described the prevailing situation in Iraqi Kurdistan as very bad because of looting and burglary, which the cliques of destruction are carrying out against private property.

In a statement to the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY today, he said that a state of confusion and chaos prevails in the local market because of the rising prices and the scarcity of foodstuffs. These provisions were stolen by the agent cliques after the state provided them for the citizens within the framework of the food rations approved by the Trade Ministry in all governorates.

He added that the agent cliques, led by agents Mas'ud Barzani and Jalal Talabani, steal everything—even electric equipment and pylons and sell them to neighboring countries. They deprive our Kurdish people of the bare necessities for a decent life made available by the 17-30 glorious July revolution.

Tal'at Hadi Ahmad stressed that our Kurdish people, who were deceived by the agent cliques of destruction through false slogans and wishes, did not have any of those tempting promises fulfilled, as these agents maintain direct links with the foreigner, the enemy of Iraq and its proud people.

He added that our Kurdish people hope that the political leadership, led by President Saddam Husayn, will intervene quickly and effectively to end their suffering and help them get rid of agents and traitors, the lackeys of the foreigner.

Paper Says North Under Control of Gangs

JN2003142693 Baghdad INA in English 1327 GMT 20 Mar 93

[Text] Baghdad, Mar. 20, INA—The Baghad OBSERVER said that the U.S.-led coalition replaced the prosperous and peaceful life in the north with the rule of the gun. The parties, or gangs, controlling the destiny of Kurds have sowed chaos and destruction all over the provinces of Arbil, al-Sulaymaniah and Dahuk.

They dismantled power pylons, leaving large areas in the north without electricity. They also traded in machinery and equipment, looted from vital development project sites, sending them to Iran.

Gangs working for warlords like Mas'ud Barzani and Jalal Talabani have gone beyond the destruction and looting public property to seize ration-system foodstuffs sent by the central government and sell them to poverty-stricken Kurds at soaring prices. Iraqi families elsewhere in the country receive the same amount of food for very low prices.

Reports from the Iraqi Kurdish region speak of miserable living conditions as well as the absence of law and order. The region has become a land of saboteurs who seek to undermine the Iraqi economy through printing fake money and other means.

It has also become a haven for army deserters and outlaws.

Compare this to the peaceful atmosphere that prevailed before the area came under the control of gangs.

Under the autonomy law, the Kurdish region saw the peace and stability it had been missing for decades. Businesses flourished with huge investment in development projects that offered the Kurds health and education facilities in remote mountainous area. Unlike fellow Kurds in neighbouring countries, the Kurds of Iraq enjoyed the right to have Kurdish as the language of teaching in various levels of education.

These are all privileges robbed by the imperialist powers that do not hesitate to use any card as long as it serves their interests even if this meant the misery of a whole people.

Kurds are celebrating Nowruz [Persian new year] amid hardships and suffering brought about by the cruelty and hypocrisy of foreign powers and in a land that is supposed to be a "safe haven".

Kurds Urged to Support Autonomy Under United Iraq

JN2103150093 Baghdad INA in English 1305 GMT 21 Mar 93

[Text] Baghdad, Mar 21, INA—The Iraq newspapers for today hailed the Kurdish people on Nowruz [Persian new year] festivities.

AL-THAWRAH daily, organ of the Arab Ba'th Socialist Party, regretted that the occasion comes this year with the Kurds still suffering from persecution and deprivation in the absence of the authority of law and state with its different official bodies and organs.

The daily added that despite all forms of oppression they faced from the agent elements, our Kurdish people remained adherent to their national Iraqi affiliation and to the leadership of President Saddam Husayn, the architect of autonomy.

It made it clear that under the rule of traitors and agents, the Kurds of Iraq had gained nothing but ruin and destruction.

The daily pointed out that the path of autonomy and national fraternity under a united Iraq was the only way that could ensure the Kurds' national rights and legitimate and humanitarian aspirations.

Observing the occasion, AL-JUMHURIYAH daily said the Iraqi people, with all its nationalities, while sharing the Kurds their celebrations on Nowruz, did not forget the situation in the autonomous region of Kurdistan before and after the control of the American Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) and Zionist agents over people's destinies there.

The paper stressed that darkness would not cloud the skies of Kurdistan forever, pointing out that the protection given by the CIA would not last long, because our Kurdish people, who had a history of national struggle against the agents and foreign and reactionary forces, had to rise in a revolution that would crush mercilessly all those installed by the Americans, Zionists, French and British to realize their hostile ends against Iraq and its national unity.

The paper underlined that celebrating Nowruz today would grow optimism in the hearts of the honourable Kurds, expressing confidence that the winds of July revolution would blow in the region to clear the mountains, hills and plains of Kurdistan from the agents and spies as well as from all forms of social injustice brought about by the traitors.

Saddam Chairs Command Secretaries' Meeting

JN2003183593 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1818 GMT 20 Mar 93

[Text] Baghdad, 30 Mar (INA)—President Saddam Husayn, secretary of the Iraq Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, has chaired a meeting of the secretaries of civilian and military branches of the party. The meeting was attended by 'Adnan Dawud Salman, director of the Iraq Command Secretariat.

Saddam Receives Cable on River Completion

JN2003160893 Baghdad INA in English 1350 GMT 20 Mar 93

[Text] Baghdad, Mar. 20, INA—Al-Qadisiyah River in southern Iraq has been completed by the Military Industry Commission, President Saddam Husayn's adviser on industry and oil sectors said in a telegram to President Husayn.

The 140 km-long river was completed in only 45 days. It stretches from Abu 'Ashrah river regulator in al-Qadisiyah Sub-District of al-Najaf Province to a low-level ground at the western desert of Dhi Qar Province called Sulaybat. The low-ground 800 square kilometre area can store more than 2.7 billion cubic metres of water suitable for cultivation.

The new river can irrigate more than 500,000 donums of land (one donum-2500 square metres).

The project includes setting up 14 different bridges along the river. So far five bridges have been completed.

The river was executed by the same teams and machinery that dug Saddam River stretching from a place near Baghdad to al-Basrah.

The 550 km-long Saddam River is to irrigate some six million donums of land.

Iraqi Youth Said Kidnapped, Tortured in Kuwait

JN2003142193 Baghdad INA in English 1315 GMT 20 Mar 93

[Text] Umm Qasr, al-Basrah, Mar. 20, INA—Kuwaiti regime authorities kidnapped three Iraqi youths and tortured them severely before releasing them on the brink of death.

The three youths were kidnapped on the bordering township of Umm Qasr. They were caught by Kuwaiti infiltrators under the nose of the UN observers troops (UNICOM) monitoring the border line.

Usamah 'Abd-al-'Abbas Muhammad, 23, an electrician, told this correspondent that he and his two colleagues were kept in captivity for eights days.

"I came to an electrical fittings market in Umm Qasr for shopping. I was kidnapped there and told by my kidnappers that I have trespassed over Kuwait land", Usamah said.

He added that he failed to convince them that he and his friends are on Iraqi land and not in Kuwait according to his knowledge of the region. The Iraqi youngsters then were accused to be Iraqi intelligence officers, a charge easily raised by the Kuwaiti rulers whenever and wherever they want.

Usamah added that the kidnappers blind-folded them and led them to a Kuwaiti intelligence officer in a nearby camp. "They took our money, watches and other possessions before leading us to a vault", he added.

Wa'il Murad, 28, a barber said, "They took me alone to another place for interrogation. They started beating me very hard when I told them that I am an Iraqi, not an Iraqi intelligence officer.

Through the interrogation, they were insisting on knowing whether I have any relative in Kuwait with whom I intend to make contacts" he said.

"They threatened that they will sexually assault me. I am a Moslem and my religion forbade me of such practices. They, however, told me that they prefer a Jewish to and Iraqi Moslem."

Ahmad Jabbar Muzil, 18, spoke of the torture he underwent in the Kuwaiti prison.

"The Kuwaiti authorities repeatedly threatened us with execution. During the interrogation, they used to beat me after every word I used to utter. They used to put us in very cold cells and splash cold water on us."

They were saying "You have to confess because your execution order has been issued".

Usamah said he was the first victim to be dealt with. They used to point the gun on the back of his head and pull the trigger of the unloaded gun. They were, he said, killing him many times each day.

Usamah said that after eight days of torture the Kuwaiti authorities placed the three of us on the nearest point of Umm Qasr and told us that that is the way to our borders where we should disappear in five seconds only. Otherwise "We will be shot dead".

"Look at these scars of torture on our bodies. Look at the broken hand of my friend Wa'il. We would not forget the brutality of those people as long as we live." Usamah concluded.

A UN committee is currently in Umm Qasr embarking on placing cement props to demark borders between Iraq and Kuwait over an area whose people have never felt one day that such props can stop them short of coexisting.

Better Relations With Iran Sought

JN2003110893 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0816 GMT 20 Mar 93

[Text] Baghdad, 20 Mar (INA)—The newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH has expressed the hope that Iran's recent statements on improving relations with Iraq are not another political game by its rulers.

In an article today, the newspaper says that he who calls for good-neighborliness should give evidence of his true intentions. If the rulers of Iran have sincere intentions, then they have many steps that they should take toward Iraq.

The newspaper adds that Iraq's stand on such Iranian signals has not changed. The Iranian rulers should have good intentions and be sincere in their statements, and they should release the remainder of Iraqi prisoners, acknowledge the correct number of planes that Iraq entrusted it with, and stop sending rabble-rousers across the border.

The paper says: However, if the Iranian call for improving relations between the two countries is a political game which Iran would try to exploit in its differences with the Arab Gulf countries, we would say that our differences with some Gulf rulers do not put us in a position to bargain over the Arabism and security of the Gulf.

The paper affirms that the Iranian rulers should know that they are mistaken if they believe, or if they were led to believe after the U.S.-Atlantic aggression, that Iraq has become an easy morsel that can be easily swallowed by Iran. Likewise, they were mistaken when they believed that they could control parts of Iraq's territory when then sent saboteurs across the border to carry acts of sabotage and looting.

Concluding its article, the newspaper says that Iran should do something to erase these black pages in the record of Iraq-Iran relations. Additionally, Iran should stop cooperating with those who betrayed the Iraqi people in the beloved northern region. For it has not ruled out that Iran itself could become the theater of such a treasonous game very soon.

Consortium Building Turkish Dam To Be Sued

NC2003081893 Paris AFP in English 0420 GMT 20 Mar 93

[Text] Baghdad, March 20 (AFP)—Iraq intends to sue nine companies building a dam in Turkey on the Euphrates, according to a government official who said the project "violated Iraq's right to use the water."

Under-secretary of state for Agriculture and Irrigation 'Abd-al-Sattar Salman said: "We have begun proceedings in collaboration with the foreign ministry to bring this suit."

However he not say what court Iraq had chosen for its legal action against the firms from Germany, Belgium, Austria, France and Turkey that formed a consortium in December to build the dam and hydroelectricity plant at a projected cost of 1.4 billion dollars.

Salman said the project was "contrary to international law."

In January, Agriculture and Irrigation Minister 'Abd-al-Wahhab Mahmud al-Sabbagh raised the threat of legal action against the nine companies involved and complained that Baghdad was not consulted over the project.

Iraq claims the scheme will reduce its share of Euphrates waters at a time when Iraqis need to develop agriculture to offset the effects of U.N. trade sanctions.

Salman said Iraq was trying to revive negotiations on water sharing with Turkey and Syria.

He said Syria had agreed "in principle" to a tripartite meeting of experts in Baghdad but Turkey had not yet replied.

Spring National Assembly Session To Begin 3 Apr

JN2103145693 Baghdad INA in English 1320 GMT 21 Mar 93

[Tet] Baghdad Mar 21, INA—Meetings of the spring session of the Iraqi National Assembly will begin here on Apr. 3.

Speaker of the National Assembly Sa'di Mahdi Salih said in a statement published by AL-THAWRAH daily today that the Assembly would adopt during it next session a plan on expanding contacts with Arab and world parliaments and influential parliamentary figures to explain the suffering of the Iraqi people under the food and medicine blockade imposed by the former U.S. Administration led by George Bush in violation of the principles and values of the United Nations.

Mr. Salih made it clear that such move were aimed at lifting the blockade to secure badly needed food and medicine to the people of Iraq and ensure the country's security and stability.

He pointed out that the parliament had succeeded in exposing the dimensions of the conspiracy designed by the 30-state alliance to partition Iraq, which constituted a blatant violation of Iraq's sovereignty and a flagrant intervention in the internal affairs of an independent member of the United Nations.

'Carbon Tax' Aimed Against Oil Producing States

JN2103135593 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1210 GMT 21 Mar 93

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 21 Mar (INA)—The group of industrially-advanced states have imposed a tax, known as the carbon tax, on the consumption of carbon energy resources.

Commenting on this tax, which is biased against oil, Oil Minister Usamah 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Hiti said in a statement to the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY: The colonialist powers opened a new page in the chapter of confrontation with the oil-exporting nations at the Montreal 14th world energy conference in 1989 by urging the industrialized states to lament the environment, the pollution of the earth, the greenhouse phenomenon, and the hole in the ozone layer. [passage omitted]

Usamah 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Hiti said: While we support the noble objective of protecting the environment, the carbon tax is biased against oil, as its burden will be carried by oil more than other resources of carbon energy. This will negatively affect the competitiveness of oil on the world energy market. Consequently, this will reduce oil consumption and will encourage the search for alternatives, which will gravely harm the interests of the oil- exporting developing nations, which basically depend on oil to develop their economies.

In light of the long-term interests of the oil-exporting developing nations, Iraq has explained and also warned on every occasion against flooding the world oil market, reducing oil prices, and falling into the colonialist trap aimed at dominating oil resources, the market, and the consumer. Events have proved that Iraq's situation, the military occupation of the Arabian Gulf region, together with the carbon tax, are part of that plan. [passage omitted]

Concluding, the oil minister said: Depriving Iraq of playing its positive role in the oil market constitutes a major weakness in OPEC. Those who are opposing Iraq's return to the market and trying to tighten the blockade on it cannot be defenders of OPEC's interests.

Scientific, Agricultural 'Successes' Cited

JN2103204293 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 17 Mar 93 p 4

[By Tariq al-Jabburi]

[Text] Scientists and researchers of the Atomic Energy Authority [AEA] have managed, unaided and in the face of the iniquitous embargo, a number of agricultural successes. They have also made advances in the area of conserving fish resources, the protection of health and the environment, and the manufacture of medical, scientific and service equipment and tools.

Acting on leader President Saddam Husayn's directives, they started a plan to foster the growth of the al-Bizz—a fish that has been on the decline in Iraq. The plan also calls for the study of diseases to which the fish is prone and creating an environment congenial to its domestication and reproduction in aquariums.

In the area of food for children, a nutrient has been developed from locally grown materials, using certain varieties of cereals and al-Zuhdi dates as a source of sugar.

Researchers at the AEA have worked out a formula to produce new varieties of flour and to enhance homegrown types, as well as to domesticate others. Six categories have been devised and enhanced. These are Tammuz 2, Tammuz 3, al-Intisar, al-Nida', al-Tahaddi, and Iratom. Another AEA achievement has been the enhancement of two varieties of barley: al-Tuwaythah to be grown on unirrigated land and Shu'a' on irrigated land.

In the manufacturing industry, an incubator for premature babies—christened al-tahaddi—and a stethoscope have been developed, drawing solely on Iraqi materials and expertise. The AEA has developed laboratory glass equipment and nonstandard glass industrial systems for

scientific and industrial research. The organization also evolved a multichannel Nitrogin-laser system as an instructional aid for the final classes in faculties of science and engineering. Another product the facility has turned out is the transversely inflamed [that al-tahayyuj al-musta'rid] Carbon dioxide system under conditions of the atmospheric pressure for industiral and scientific applications, in addition to the production of a new solution for use in painting jewelry electrically.

In the sphere of environment protection, a special system for filtering heavy waters (the biological filtering system) and a fine water filtration system have been developed. A substitute for anti-calcification substances used in the water filtration systems known as (Graham Salt) has been devised, as has been the silca substance used in the precipitating process inside the filtration systems.

Arab-Israeli Violence Continues Unabated

Stabbing at School in Jerusalem

TA2203124993 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 22 Mar 93

[Excerpts] In Jerusalem this morning, five pupils and the principal of the John F. Kennedy Apprenticeship Center in Talpiyyot were stabbed by an Arab assailant. One of the pupils is in moderate condition; the others were lightly injured. The assailant, a 22- year-old resident of Jabal al-Mukabar, was beaten by bystanders and later arrested by police. At this hour, Talpiyyot is tense but calm. Earlier, an angry mob threw stones at Arab-owned cars and attacked Knesset members [MK's] and journalists near the scene. [passage omitted]

Dozens of angry residents and workers in the nearby Talpiyyot industrial zone began throwing stones and other objects at Arab- owned cars on Pierre Koenig and nearby streets. Two Arabs were injured and eight of the rioters detained. They included five pupils and three adults. A border policeman was lightly injured by an empty bottle thrown at an Arab car. The windshield of another Arab-owned car was smashed. Deputy Education Minister Mikha Goldman came to the school to hear what happened and try to calm down the pupils. Other MK's also arrived, including Avraham Burg and Avi Yehezqel of Labor, who were rescued by police from an angry mob on their way out of the school. The Arab assailant was treated for light head wounds. Police say he was released about 18 months ago from jail, where he served a two-year sentence for throwing firebombs and setting a vehicle alight. [passage omitted]

An Arab man was beaten a short time ago by an angry mob on Hebron road. A Magen David Adom ambulance is now taking him to hospital. The attackers managed to get away before the police arrived. Police say they have sent additional forces to Talpiyyot to prevent any further outbreak of violence.

Further Report

TA2203073093 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0700 GMT 22 Mar 93

[Text] Four students and the principal of the Kennedy High School in Jerusalem's Talpiyyot neighborhood were stabbed about an hour ago. One of the students sustained moderate to serious wounds, and the rest were slightly injured. The perpetrator, a 25-year-old Arab from Jabal al-Mukabar, was wounded.

Our correspondents Moshe Nussbaum and 'Ofra Nehmad report that the Arab broke into the school shouting Allahu akbar [Allah is great] at around 0800, as the students were entering the classrooms. One of the teachers, Aharon Ben-Basat, said that the Arab arrived in a white car. He pulled out a long kitchen knife and stabbed anybody in sight.

Zvulun Seri, the school principal, stood in his way and overpowered him with the help of the school watchman and other people. Seri was hurt in the hand. Five ambulances evacuated the three [as heard] students, the principal, and the Arab stabber to Hadassah Hospital. A police unit extricated the stabber from the mob that lunged at him. Large police forces have deployed in Talpiyyot and other neighborhoods in Jerusalem.

Rabin Comments on Attack

TA2203124393 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 22 Mar 93

[Text] Yitzhaq Rabin, prime minister and defense minister, has said that if an armed guard were present at the gate of the Kennedy High School in Jerusalem this morning, the incident would have ended in a totally different way. Speaking at a news conference in the south this morning, Rabin stressed that there is almost no control over the passage of Arab residents from Judaea and Samaria into Israel and Jerusalem. We cannot have a policeman for every citizen, the prime minister said. Our correspondent Netan'el Semrik following reports:

[Begin recording] [Semrik] Yitzhaq Rabin, the prime minister and defense minister toured the south this morning accompanied by Lieutenant General Ehud Baraq, the chief of staff, and Major General Matan Vilna'i, commander of the Southern Command. He held an impromptu news conference in one of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] camps in the Gaza Strip, where he expressed his criticism of the fact that the guard at the Kennedy High School was unarmed.

[Rabin] The state is financing a guard for every school at a cost of some 80-90 million shekels. The guards should be armed, and if the guard there had been armed, such an incident would have ended in a totally different way.

[Semrik] Referring to the recent wave of terror attacks, the prime minister stressed that Israel will go on with the political negotiations as if there were no terror and will continue fighting terrorism as if no peace talks were being held.

[Rabin] I can see that the Army is adapting its modes of operation to changes in the circumstances. This is not to say that terror can be quelled by military means alone. We will stay here until we reach a political solution. The issue of unilateral withdrawal is not on the agenda today; this is not the aim of this government. The government wants to provide maximum security on the one hand and, on the other, find a solution to the problem, which would put an end to these things.

[Semrik] Yitzhaq Rabin refused to address the rumors about the possibility that a new Jewish underground may be set up. I cannot conceive of such a possibility, Rabin said. [end recording]

Two Detained on Stabbing Suspicion

TA1903173493 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 19 Mar 93

[Text] Two suspects have been detained in suspicion of stabbing David Libskeind, a soldier, in Nazareth approximately a week ago. The two are residents of al-Judayyidah in the Janin District. Our correspondent Yo'av Aviv reports the two planned the attack over a period of a month. The suspects reconstructed the attack, identified the shop in Nazareth where they purchased the knives, and the exact location where they threw them away. Upon a search, the knives were indeed found in that area. After the stabbing, the two left in the area a newspaper of the Islamic movement on which they wrote by hand that they were members of the 'Izz al-Din al-Qassam group. During the interrogation, however, they admitted they did this to confuse the security forces and that in fact they operated independently.

During the interrogation, it transpired that the two had worked in Nazareth without permits. Commander Ya'aqov Ganot, commander of the Police Northern District, said that in the wake of this investigation the police will step up their activity to prevent workers from the territories staying overnight in Israel.

David Libskeind is still hospitalized in the Rambam Hospital in Haifa in serious condition.

Two 'Terrorists' Escape in Gaza

TA2003054993 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 20 Mar 93

[Text] Two Palestinian terrorists managed to slip away from Israeli troops and police last night after a siege in Gaza city. At about 1600 soldiers patrolling in a jeep spotted armed men in a car and gave chase. The men took refuge in a house in the al-Shaykh Radwan neighborhood. Troops and police surrounded the house and besieged it for several hours. In the evening, the troops opened fire and burst in, but the Palestinians had escaped leaving behind hand grenades, ammunition, and wigs used for disguise. In the abandoned car, the troops found a Kalashnikov assault rifle.

Five Molotov cocktails were thrown at an Army patrol in Hebron last night, but no one was hurt. Three of the firebombs ignited when they hit the ground. A firebomb was thrown at an Israeli car last night as it drove past Bet Horon north of Jerusalem. No one was hurt and there was no damage.

Hizballah-Palestine Claims 3 Deaths in Gaza

NC2003182293 Paris AFP in English 1734 GMT 20 Mar 93

[Text] Jerusalem, March 20 (AFP) - Gunmen in the occupied Gaza Strip shot dead an Israeli soldier Saturday, an army spokesman said.

The soldier died when he was shot in the head by gunmen who ambushed an Israeli jeep at dawn in the Jabalya refugee camp, the spokesman said.

In the Lebanese capital of Beirut, a Palestinian Muslim fundamentalist group said its fighters shot and killed three Israeli soldiers during the ambush in Jabalya.

"Commandos from our organization, armed with automatic weapons, ambushed a Zionist enemy patrol in the Jabalya refugee camp and killed three soldiers," the group, called Hizballah-Palestine, said in a statement.

The assailants were able to evade capture, it added.

Palestinian sources say Hizballah-Palestine is led by Muhammad Hasan Muhanna, whom Israel expelled to Lebanon from Gaza in the 1980s. They added his group is based in Damascus and financed by Iran.

[(Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic at 1645 GMT on 20 March reports the incident, saying: "In a statement distributed in Beirut, Hizballah-Palestine declared that one of its groups killed three Israeli soldiers in Jabalya camp today."]

IDF Soldier Killed in Gaza 20 Mar

TA2003183493 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1800 GMT 20 Mar 93

[Text] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman announced tonight that 21 year-old Sergeant Yosef Shabtay of Ashdod was killed this morning in a clash with armed terrorists in the Jabalyah refugee camp in Gaza. Reporter Alan Ben-'Ami has more details:

The soldiers were ambushed as they were returning from a night patrol to their base inside the Jabalyah refugee camp in Gaza. It was about 0530 in the morning. The soldiers, members of the Nahal Brigade, were riding in two command cars. A second lieutenant was in charge of the patrol, and Sergeant Yosef Shabtay, his deputy, was sitting in the second of the two vehicles.

As the two command cars were approaching the base, shots were fired at the vehicles from a nearby alley. The soldiers began firing back, and the sergeant jumped out of his vehicle to lead his men in a charge toward the gunmen. His comrades said he fired off two or three shots before being hit in the head by a single bullet from the attackers, who then broke off their firing and began to retreat. Sergeant Shabtay, mortally wounded, died soon after.The gunmen ran off to a waiting car and drove away. The car was found abandoned later; apparently it had broken down, forcing the gunmen to escape on foot. Tracks led through a nearby orchard toward the al-Shaykh Radwan neighborhood in Gaza and the nearby al- Shati' refugee camp.

An intensive search began for the gunmen, believed to number two at the ambush site, and at least one other in the waiting car. Troops sealed off the area and began a thorough sweep, and the Jabalyah camp was put under curfew. Two dozen spent cartridge cases were discovered

at the ambush site. Magazines for an M-16 automatic rifle were found later in the abandoned car, and bullets for a Kalashnikov automatic rifle were found nearby. There is no indication of who ambushed the Army patrol.

In a separate development, the IDF spokesman announced tonight that four men on the wanted list and a large quantity of ammunition have been uncovered at Dayr al-Balah, further south in the Gaza Strip.

Arab Boy Killed, 9 Wounded in Gaza 20 Mar

TA2003203193 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 20 Mar 93

[Text] Our correspondent in the territories Amir Hay reports that a seven year-old Arab boy was killed by security forces shots in the Khan Yunus refugee camp during disturbances today. According to the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman nine Arabs were wounded from shots fired by the security forces in the Gaza Strip today. According to Palestinian sources, 24 people were wounded today.

Soldier Killed, 2 Wounded in West Bank 20 March

TA2103053693 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 21 Mar 93

[Excerpts] Two soldiers were killed in separate clashes with gunmen in the West Bank and Gaza Strip yesterday. One was killed and two others were wounded when they came under fire near Ari'el in Samaria last night. Yesterday morning, 21-year-old Sergeant Yosef Shabta'i of Ashdod was killed by gunmen in the Gaza Strip. More from reporter Alan Ben-'Ami: [passage omitted]

It was three reserves soldiers, members of the regional defense unit, who came under fire last night when their jeep was ambushed in the Tulkarm District in Samaria. The soldiers had been sent to escort a busload of children when they were fired at on the road between Ari'el and the settlement of 'Aley Zahav. Bursts of automatic weapon fire were directed at the Army jeep, killing one of the men inside and wounding the two others, all reserves soldiers from 'Aley Zahav.

The gunmen disappeared, leaving behind a Kalashnikov rifle. Soldiers who arrived at the scene began a sweep of the area, firing flares to light up the night darkness. Nearby villages were put under curfew.

The two wounded soldiers were transferred to Tel Hashomer Hospital where their injuries were described as light to moderate. The family of the dead man has been informed.

2d Palestinian Dies in Khan Yunus

TA2103054993 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 21 Mar 93

[Text] The Army has launched an investigation into the death of a seven-year-old Palestinian boy from Khan Yunus in the Gaza Strip. The boy's body was brought to al-Nasir Hospital with chest wounds, but the body was snatched, presumably by family members, for burial.

Also in Khan Yunus, a 16-year-old Palestinian was killed as Army soldiers tried to break up violent demonstrations using plastic bullets.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0505 GMT on 21 March adds that "according to Palestinian sources, more than 10 residents of Khan Yunus were injured yesterday."]

Soldier Injured, Another Escapes Knifing

TA2103074593 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0730 GMT 21 Mar 93

[Text] A 26-year-old reserves soldier was slightly injured by shots fired by terrorists in Khan Yunus this morning. Our correspondent Roni Sofer reports that the soldier was evacuated to Barzilay Hospital in Ashqelon. According to Palestinian sources, the Fatah Hawks were responsible for this morning's attack in Khan Yunus.

In 'Afula, an Arab from the Samaria village of al-Yamun attempted to stab a female soldier in the city's central bus station. This was reported by our correspondent in the north Menahem Horowitz. A passerby managed to stop the assailant, who was detained. Two knives were found in his possession. He told his interrogators that having flunked the matriculation exams, he wanted to die. The soldier was not hurt.

Child Killed in Khan Yunus

TA2103081893 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 21 Mar 93

[Text] An IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldier was slightly wounded in the hand from a burst of gunfire directed at a moving patrol in Khan Yunus. A short while later, another burst was fired at an IDF observation post in Khan Yunus, injuring no one.

Salim Shurab, about 12 years old, was shot dead in the course of disturbances in Khan Yunus this morning. Our correspondent Gil Litman reports that the IDF is investigating the event.

Two Killed, 15 Wounded in Khan Yunus 21 Mar

TA2103091693 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 21 Mar 93

[Text] A soldier was slightly injured by a burst of gunfire at his patrol in Khan Yunus this morning.

In disturbances which erupted in Khan Yunus this morning, two youths were killed and 15 wounded. The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] is investigating the circumstances of the incidents.

Two Israelis Wounded in Ambush 20 Mar

TA2003193493 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 20 Mar 93

[Text] Here is a report which has just reached the studio. Shots were fired this evening from an ambush on an Israeli owned vehicle near the village of Buruqin near the Kfar Tapuah-Ari'el road. An initial report indicates that two people were wounded. Our military affairs correspondent reports that settlers from 'Aley Zahav and Pdu'el reported that shots were fired near their settlements. IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers are currently conducting searches in the area.

Hizballah Radio Reports Jabalya Camp 'Ambush'

NC2103074693 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 21 Mar 93

[Text] Hizballah-Palestine has announced that Martyr Muhammad Muhanna group laid in ambush for the Zionist occupation troops near the cemetery in Jabalya Camp. The strugglers deluged a Zionist patrol with a hail of machine-gun fire, killing three and wounding two of the patrol members. The mujahidin managed to escape the security siege imposed by the occupation troops at the scene of the operation.

Police Commander on 'Terrorist Hard Core'

TA2003103993 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 20 Mar 93

[Text] Assistant Commander Husayn Faris, the Border Police commander in the Gaza Strip, said that there are about 100 Arab fugitives in the Strip, who make up the terrorist hard core against which the security forces are fighting. He told our army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe that less than 1 percent of the refugees in the Gaza Strip belong to the shock committees and popular committees, and are among the active disturbers of the peace. The Border Police commander said the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] has beefed up its troops in the strip and more lookouts have been set up in Khan Yunus and Rafah.

General Comments on Violence Situation

TA2103064393 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 21 Mar 93

[Report on interview with Major General Matan Vilna'i, Southern Command commander, by army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe on 20 March; place not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Menashe] Gen. Vilna'i, yesterday a soldier was killed in the Gaza Strip; there were riots and disturbances in Khan Yunus and Rafah throughout past week. Will not a day pass without bullets, grenades, and bombs?

[Vilna'i] Yes, March has undoubtedly been one of the worst months we have experienced, and it is not over yet. At the same time we, who are responsible for the area, have to take a rational view of the events. Despite the blow, despite the casualties we have suffered, it should be understood that we are in the midst of a battle, a war on wanted men, and in war, the enemy is not the only one who gets hurt.

[Menashe] The intifadah continues, says Gen. Vilna'i, but at much lower levels than those to which we have been accustomed. We cannot compare past week's events in Khan Yunus and Rafah with the situation at the outset of the intifadah: They are not similar at all.

[Vilna'i] We introduced new parameters in our operations in the area. The locals did not like them at all, so they—mainly youths—tried to interfere by throwing stones. We responded in accordance with all our regulations, and dozens were wounded as a result; most of them returned home a short while later. They were not wounded by accident, but rather by precise firing by our troops. This activity has achieved our goals. [passage omitted]

[Menashe] Do you think there is a connection between the attack yesterday and the attack in al-Shaja'iyah?

[Vilna'i] We assume the two attacks were carried out by Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], by the so-called 'Izz-al-Din al- Qassam military apparatus, and we are looking into the possibility that the same men were involved in both. There may be a connection between the two cases.

[Menashe] As for knife wielders, Gen. Vilna'i says that these are people whose names do not appear on lists of suspects; they simply get up one morning and decide to kill Jews out of extremist motives. [passage omitted]

[Vilna'i] I would like to stress that the Strip is a complicated place, but the situation is not as bad as people sometimes believe it to be. It can be controlled, and we do control it; we are waging a battle against all this. [passage omitted]

Minister Against Collective Punishment in Strip

TA2103064893 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0600 GMT 21 Mar 93

[Text] Construction and Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer says the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] does not think that the security situation has deteriorated to a point requiring a substantial modification of its activity. Minister Ben-Eli'ezer believes that neither the meting of collective punishment to Gaza Strip residents nor a decision to exit the Gaza Strip at once will solve the problem.

He says the public has a sense of insecurity, and the government should do everything it can to change that feeling. The construction and housing minister was speaking to our correspondent Tzvi Lidar.

Intifadah, Nationalism Dampen Chances of Interim Agreement

TA2103123393 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 21 Mar 93 p B1

[Editorial: "Reviewing the Concept"]

[Text] The prime minister asserts that he did not deviate from his usual political line during his U.S. visit; in all his public appearances, he repeatedly refused to state the extent to which Israel will be ready to pull the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] out of the Golan Heights as long as Syria does not reveal the kind of peace to which it will agree. And Rabin never stopped portraying the Palestinian delegation as a body incapable of making decisions and the PLO leader as an obstacle to peace.

The opposition suspects that in talks with the U.S. leadership, the prime minister was more forthcoming than he will admit, while some peace camp members secretly hope that the right-wing attacks on Rabin are founded. But neither the suspicions nor the hopes are likely to be founded in fact, and we should prefer the version that Yitzhaq Rabin's positions in private meetings were as inflexible as those he presented in meetings with reporters.

The U.S. policymakers seemed satisfied—for the time being—with the prime minister's declaration that Israel is ready to take risks in a bid to achieve peace, postponing the implementation of their decision to be "a full partner" in the peace process to a later stage. One can presume that the prime minister still thinks he will cross this bridge when he gets to it; but if he does, the ninth round of bilateral talks is not likely to promote the political process any more than the first eight had.

This apprehension is shared by quite a few, including some—if not most—ministers. Although they have not lost trust in Yitzhaq Rabin and are therefore loath to demand that he accelerate the peace process; they are perhaps even sorry that during his U.S. visit, he persistently blamed the Arab parties for the lack of progress of the peace process; but they seriously doubt that 1993 will indeed draw us closer to the much-desired goal.

Against this background of uncertainty, various ideas floating in the air have come to the forefront. One of these is the theory that the format of discussions established in Madrid offers no chance for progress. Yet the blame does not lie with the format, but with all those who were disinclined to feed the discussions with constructive ideas; the format itself did not force the discussions into a freeze. It is doubtful that Israel's autonomy plan would have been meet with Palestinian assent sooner had Faruq Qaddumi attended the bilateral committee meetings instead of Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi.

The question is not with whom the negotiations are conducted, but what is negotiated. The autonomy plan was shaped by Menahem Begin in 1977, and as we saw during the negotiations with Egypt following the Camp David accords, the Egyptians took great pains to include in the interim arrangement elements which Israel thought could predetermine the nature of the permanent settlement. At that time, Israel was charged with striving for an arrangement that would prevent the autonomy from becoming an embryo Palestinian state.

The truth is that both sides discussed the interim arrangement with an eye to the permanent settlement. Can anyone guarantee the same will not happen in the ninth round of talks due to start on 29 April?

We should ask ourselves whether the concept itself, namely the separation between the two kinds of arrangement, can guarantee that the conflict between us and the Palestinians will abate. For 16 years, we were able to believe that the Palestinians will agree to an accord based on this separation; now, after 26 years of occupation and five and a half years of intifadah, we doubt that this hope can be still considered realistic.

The West Bank and Gaza Strip Arabs have made such vast progress toward national awareness that there is room for doubt whether the Palestinian nation will be ready to wait five more years for negotiations on the nature of the permanent arrangement.

Instead of wondering how to alter the Madrid format, we should give thought to the dilemma inherent in our zealous adherence to the provisos of the Camp David accords.

Cabinet Discusses Security, Decides To Expand Police Force

TA2103141193 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1230 GMT 21 Mar 93

[Report by political correspondent Natan Gutman at the Prime Minister's Office]

[Text] The cabinet meeting, which lasted five hours—longer than usual—ended a few minutes ago. The main message from the government today is that it is strengthening the police to fight terrorism by approving 2,000 new positions for the police force, some of them possibly at the expense of the traffic detail. The prime minister and the ministers of police and transportation are now trying to work out that issue. The cabinet called on the public to join the Civil Guard. Let us hear cabinet Secretary Elyaqim Rubinstein summing up the debate:

[Begin Rubinstein recording] The prime minister, the defense and police ministers, and the chief of staff reviewed security affairs within the framework of the Ministerial Committee on National Security Affairs. Referring in particular to the issue of domestic security, the prime minister noted that the cabinet is committed

to achieving peace and is determined to achieve maximum security for the people in Israel and the territories. Strengthening the police and the Civil Guard is therefore appropriate and will be done.

In addition, security measures are being taken in the territories, such as controlling exits from the Gaza Strip, improving technical measures to make sure these steps are taken, restricting employment by workers from the territories wherever possible, fighting a war against the hard-core nucleus of wanted men and, of course, acting to improve security for Jewish settlers. The prime minister, in consultation with the ministers concerned, will decide on ways to bolster the police. The public is also called on to volunteer for the Civil Guard. The prime minister expressed in the cabinet's name appreciation for the security services' activity to improve internal security under existing conditions and while maintaining the proper norms of behavior.

Later, the prime minister reviewed his visit to the United States last week and his talks with President Bill Clinton and administration and congressional leaders. The finance minister also reported on his U.S. visit and his talks with the administration and the business community. [end recording]

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1300 GMT on 21 March adds that in consultations the prime minister held after the cabinet meeting, "it was decided to expand the police force by another 3,000 positions, and most of the new policemen will be deployed in the territories and along the Green Line." The report said that during the cabinet debate, "several ministers criticized the settlers and the right wing for exploiting the situation to delegitimize the peace process. From the political report presented by the prime minister on his return from Washington, it appears that the United States has many grievances against the Palestinians."]

Meretz Working Out Employment Plan in Territories

TA2103142293 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 21 Mar 93

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] In today's cabinet session, Minister Yosi Sarid said that Meretz ministers are currently working out a plan under which inhabitants of the territories will receive wages for developing an infrastructure in the territories. In this way Arab workers will not have to enter the Green Line. According to Minister Sarid the plan will cost 800 million shekels.

There was no discussion on the issue of expanding the coalition either during or following today's cabinet session.

Police To Investigate Deputy Mufti's Ramadan Sermon

TA1903191993 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1800 GMT 19 Mar 93

[Excerpts] The Jerusalem Police commander says there will be an investigation into today's sermon by the deputy mufti of Jerusalem. The police have a recording of Shaykh Muhammad al-Jamal telling thousands of Muslim worshipers at mosques on the Temple Mount that Jewish sovereignty over Israel would pass. He also called for crucifixion of Palestinians who collaborate with Israel, and attacked sale of land by Arabs to Jews. [passage omitted]

Some of the estimated 180,000 worshipers on the Temple Mount remained there for tonight's celebration of Laylat al-Qadr, which ends the Muslim holy month of Ramadan.

Der'i, Rabin Discuss Security, Coalition Issues 21 Mar

TA2103201693 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 21 Mar 93

[Text] Interior Minister Arye Der'i held a private meeting with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin this evening. The two discussed security matters, but most of their meeting was devoted to SHAS' [Torah Observing Sephardim] demand to shift Education Minister Aloni from her post and to introduce United Torah Jewry into the government. Minister Der'i said the atmosphere in the meeting was good. Our correspondent assesses that in the next few days the prime minister will meet Rabbi 'Ovadya Yosef. Meanwhile SHAS is inclined to acquiesce to Rabin's request that it support the candidacy of 'Ezer Weizman for president. Our political correspondent spoke with Minister Der'i following the meeting with the prime minister:

[Begin recording] [Der'i] I explained my opinions to the prime minister. I do not intend to elaborate, because the only way to succeed in these issues is by behaving discretely and quietly, without posing any threats or deadline ultimatums. I hope that we will see the fruits in these matters in the near future. There is no certainty of success, but I am hopeful.

[Sukenik] Does all this mean that you and the prime minister will try to persuade Meretz to shift Minister Aloni on the one hand, and to bring United Torah Jewry to the government on the other?

[Der'i] Look, there is a lot of speculation. You must remember, however, that I am not the one responsible for forming the government. I expressed my opinions, which I believe will serve the interests of the government. In today's cabinet session I heard Minister Sarid charging that what I am saying in effect gives the impression that the government cannot deal with the security situation. Well, this is not what I said. I only said

that each of us has his own public and his own problems, and I believe that expanding the government will only serve its interests.

There is no decree stating that the government must stay in its present constellation. I do not regard portfolios as an ideological problem. If all the coalition members are motivated by the basic guidelines of wanting to expedite the peace process and preserve Israel's security, then I believe that within the framework of these guidelines there is room for other partners. If, however, the portfolios turn into an acute bone of contention, then perhaps there is nothing to talk about.

[Sukenik] Many people believe that SHAS is not interested so much in ideological issues as in obtaining additional funds.

[Der'i] I have already heard these remarks. Let me tell you, however, that this issue was not raised at all during my meeting with the prime minister. [end recording]

Ministers Warn of Danger of New Jewish Underground

TA2203094593 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 22 Mar 93 pp 1, 19

[Report by Hayim Shibi]

[Excerpt] "The danger of a new settlers underground emerging in the territories is real," several ministers warned in yesterday's cabinet session.

Minister Ya'ir Tzaban of Meretz said: "There is a danger of a new underground of extremists emerging in the territories. There have been overt, public calls to violate the law and clash with the security forces. All these dangerous trends must be curbed at once, because it will be much more difficult to do so when the internal argument worsens. Demonstrators should be banned from carrying arms, and the police should enforce this."

Yosi Sarid of Meretz said: "The general public is behaving in an exemplary manner. The demonstrations are staged by settlers, and they are guided more by ulterior political motives than by distress. We are only at the beginning of the road."

Sarid, who first cautioned about the existence of a Jewish underground in the territories in the early 1980's, said last night in reply to a question by YEDI'OT AHARONOT: "We will have to watch for the emergence of an underground in the territories in anticipation of the big decisions in the peace negotiations. Radical settlers will probably attempt to thwart such decisions."

Sarid added: "They do not need an underground, however, because the situation that has evolved since the 1980's enables them to do in the open what they once did in the underground."

Incidentally, a phone call saying that a bomb had been planted in Sarid's home was received last night at a Tel Aviv District police station. Policemen searched Sarid's home and car but found nothing.

Minister 'Uzi Bar'am of Labor said in the cabinet session: "The goal of the settlers is to undermine the legitimacy of the peace process. The public is ridden with anxiety, and the attempt to blame the government and the prime minister for the casualties of terror attacks is cynical and evil."

Speaking to the YEDI'OT AHARONOT correspondent last night, Bar'am said: "In my opinion, the conditions for the emergence of an underground exist: a population that feels under siege and a government that conducts itself in contravention of the political and Jewish norms of some of the settlers. The current situation is tough, but their biggest fear is that the political solution the government is aiming at will make it tougher."

To my question whether there is room for any preemptive action, Bar'am replied: "What we need is good intelligence work and early detection, coupled with cooperation with most of the settlers, who do not share such views." [passage omitted]

Rabin Returns, Sums Up U.S. Visit

TA1903150293 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1312 GMT 19 Mar 93

[Arrival statement and news conference by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, upon his return from the United States, at Ben-Gurion Airport—live; broadcast in progress]

[Text] [Rabin] ...in one word, I believe the visit was very good. I examine the quality of the visit in view of the attainment of its purposes. Our purpose was to reach understandings in the political and defense spheres; the U.S. assistance to Israel; and mainly to reinforce the infrastructure of understanding and confidence with the President, the secretary of state, the secretary of defense, and other key officials of the new administration. The President gave us a very wide opportunity. We held a meeting—broken down to several segments, including a four-hour lunch—in which we had an opportunity to present the Israeli stands on, among other things, the resumption of the peace talks.

I wish to remind you that the visit followed an understanding on the issue of the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] deportees. On my part, I made a concession on this matter, but the Americans have also undertaken to prevent the continued discussion of the issue at the UN Security Council and, in every contact they will have with Arab elements, to present a firm stand that the agreement will be implemented, which they did. All the Arab demands to change the agreement were not accepted by the United States.

I believe that I was allowed to present, clarify, and provide the background for the current Israeli Government stands as presented publicly and in the talks with

the Arab delegations. We also dealt with strengthening Israel in terms of defense and the economy. I wish to cite the President's remarks, made both in a private conversation and in public; he said: I understand that you are willing to make compromises and take calculated risks to reach peace. I believe it is the U.S. role to minimize the risks you will be taking for the sake of peace through military and economic aid.

We also touched upon other issues, not connected with Israel's peace or defense policies. Presenting the budget for the U.S. 1994 fiscal year, the President kept the full extent of the aid to Israel to the tune of $3 billion, of which $1.8 billion is earmarked for defense and $1.2 for economic aid—for which I thanked the President. I told him about the success of the Arrow missile trials and received his agreement to go on with the project. I also received the go-ahead from Secretary of Defense Les Aspin, who is very familiar with Israel. He has visited here many times and, in his previous capacity as chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, was very helpful in joint projects of both countries' defense ministries.

I raised the issue of the Arab boycott, hoping the President would raise this in the G-7 meeting to really express the American stand opposing it. The President suggested that a committee be set up to deal with cooperation on advanced technology issues, beyond the joint funds existing today. He announced that Secretary of Commerce Ron Brown will be his representative at the committee and that he is willing to have us raise various issues to allow further cooperation and mutual use of technological know-how of both countries for the joint purposes.

The President also suggested that the level of discussions on strategic cooperation be raised in view of regional developments and the threats posed by the fundamentalist Islam. He believes that by expanding the scope and level of the discussions we will be creating further understanding not only on things that take place today but also, vis-a-vis the promotion of the political moves in the peace talks, we will discuss the long- and short-term threats. Many other issues were also broached.

We sat for over two hours in a narrow forum of six, with their three being the U.S. President, the secretary of state, and the White House official heading the National Security Council. Later we held a working lunch—also attended by the vice president, the secretary of defense, and all of the key officials of the White House and the Defense and State Departments—aimed at reaching a better mutual understanding of the background and the reasons.

I believe that the President's public statement at the joint news conference really expresses his knowledge and understanding of Israel's special problems. Before I left for home, I spoke with him on the phone yesterday. I hope and believe that one of the most important things in the U.S.-Israeli relations is the ability to establish confidence and credibility in discussions and remarks to avoid the need of striking formal agreements. Our experience so far with the secretary of state and the President in this respect gives me firm grounds to believe that such relations were indeed established.

Naturally, we know that the Americans have an executive branch and a legislative branch. Thus, on 16 and 17 March, I devoted most of my time to meetings in the Congress. I met with the leaders of both houses and the top figures considered to be the leaders of both parties. I held private meetings with key officials to secure Congressional approval of the budgets earmarked for Israel. I met with the members of both houses' committees on foreign affairs and armed services. In short, I met some 110 U.S. legislators; I met with nearly half the senators and with the key Congressional officials connected to the issues that concern us.

[Rabin] On Tuesday I decided to cut short my visit, because I would have completed my important talks with the U.S. Administration on Wednesday. Yesterday I saw fit to hold a meeting with the Jewish community leadership. I held a long meeting with the members of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations. I also held a special meeting at Yeshiva University, which is the academic institution of the religious sector of U.S. Jewry.

I also met the UN secretary general to soften the misunderstandings that ensued in the wake of the deportations. We also dealt with various other issues. I raised various proposals, mainly regarding the strengthening of the United Nations Development Program, which is a body dealing with investments in the territories on behalf of the Palestinians. I also suggested that the United Nations, which is a huge buyer of goods and foodstuffs, help in this area by purchasing goods from the Arabs of the territories.

All these were done with a view to decreasing the number of Arabs who work in Israel. Obviously I was informed about what was happening in Israel—I was regularly briefed by the chief of staff. There was a severe wave of terror, but we have already encountered such waves in the past. We must learn the lessons of every such terror wave.

We must remember, however, that the basic solution to the problem is continuing the peace talks and finding a solution that will meet the terms of the letter of invitation to the Madrid conference, namely, advancing in two stages toward a solution of the conflict between us and the Palestinians. The first stage calls for implementing what was once called the autonomy and nowadays ISGA—interim self-government arrangement [five last words in English] in the territories. This commitment was undertaken when Israel went to Madrid. The present government has also undertaken to implement this, with different nuances but without any substantial differences.

I assess, together with the Americans, that there are good chances for the resumption of the talks on 20 April. I hope that in the course of 1993 we will see significant

progress toward solving the two main problems between us and the Palestinians in the territories, as well as regarding relations between us and Syria.

[Qol Yisra'el's Shlomo Raz] Mr. Prime Minister, in addition to the decision in principle to continue the peace process despite the domestic security situation, are there any specific steps that you are going to implement in view of the deteriorating security situation?

[Rabin] The last two weeks have indeed been difficult. More than a month ago, when the Gaza Strip was put under a closure, various measures were introduced, and some of them are already being implemented, although it will take time to complete them. One of these measures is checking all those who pass through the checkpoints in a manner similar to airport security checks. All those passing will have to go thorough a metal detector. There will be more thoroughness in enforcing the measures already existing. Thus, for example, the terrorist who murdered two people in Tel Aviv had a magnetic I.D. card which had expired, and in such a case the card bleeps upon examination. Apparently the soldiers manning the checkpoint were not sufficiently alert. We have to implement both the measures that already exist and new ones as well.

The employers of Arabs from the territories must also be more alert. We have seen the case of an Israeli employer who transported two or three Arabs, some of whom have been working with him for more than a month, without even checking them—upon which they went on to murder him. This obliges us to implement measures which will give the feeling that we will not let this go unpunished as deterrence measures. It also calls for top alert on the part of the employers both in the territories and elsewhere vis-a-vis the inhabitants of the territories. We also must prevent the phenomena of Israelis attempting to transport Arab workers without authorization or supervision. In addition to all the measures implemented against the terror organizations, instigators, and those involved in terrorism there should also be more alertness on the part of Israelis.

Let me reiterate what I have already said in the past: Being in charge of the territories, we are also responsible for the Palestinian inhabitants. I would welcome, however, a decrease in the number of Palestinian workers, especially in Israel. This would help us fight unemployment, but most of all, the fewer Palestinians working in Israel the less the danger. Apparently our coexistence in the present circumstances is very difficult.

[IDF Radio's Eldar Beck] Mr. Prime Minister, SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] officials are talking about the need to reexamine the future of the coalition; people in the Likud are sending out feelers concerning the possibility of forming a national unity government. Do you think this is the time to act to broaden the coalition, and do you believe this can be done without harming the peace process?

[Rabin] I have just arrived. While in the United States I dealt with bilateral relations. I also followed the security developments in Israel. Next Sunday—if indeed, as it appears, there are problems—we will jointly search for a solution, mainly with a view of preserving the present coalition.

[Israel Television's Gadi Sukenik] During your private meeting with President Clinton, did you raise new ideas regarding the peace process?

[Rabin] Look, we exchanged comments and ideas. But in all my comments there was no deviation from the government's fundamental positions, both regarding our position concerning the peace negotiations with Syria and concerning the negotiations with the Palestinians toward implementing the interim arrangement for the interim period.

Rabin on Clinton, Peace Talks

TA1903195693 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1830 GMT 19 Mar 93

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin by Ya'ir Stern, place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Stern] Mr. Rabin, did President Clinton ask you to clarify the extent to which Israel is willing to withdraw on the Golan Heights?

[Rabin] President Clinton wanted to understand Israel's positions regarding the peace negotiations with all the Arab partners in general, but in particular with the Palestinians and the Syrians. I explained to him Israel's position, and I told him what I had already told the Israeli public, namely that the depth of Israel's withdrawal is conditional upon Syria's and al-Asad's ability to prove to the Israeli people they really are interested in true peace, upon the ability of peace with Syria to stand on its own two feet, and upon the security arrangements that must be clarified without going into the details of the withdrawal's dimensions.

[Stern] Was President Clinton's use of the expression normalization in relations to peace with Syria—including exchange of ambassadors and open borders—used at your express request?

[Rabin] No. I believe that this is the ongoing position of most U.S. presidents since President Carter, maintaining that the purpose of peace negotiations is to reach full peace. This has certainly been the purpose of the Madrid conference, as expressed in the letter of invitation to that conference. As far as the Palestinians in the territories are concerned, this calls for advancing toward a permanent solution in two stages.

[Stern] Did you feel that you have acquired a personal friend in the White House?

[Rabin] I do not want to discuss personal issues. In these relationships, the main thing is to achieve relations of trust and credibility. In our experience with the Clinton

administration, both in the arrangement between myself and the secretary of state regarding the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] deportees and in other areas, I believe we have reached a situation in which we can prevent misunderstandings. On the other hand both the Americans and we adhere to those things regarding which we have achieved understandings.

Finance Minister Returns From U.S., Comments on Aid

TA2203055993 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 22 Mar 93

[Text] The current level of U.S. aid to Israel will be maintained next year but is not assured for 1995. This was stated by Finance Minister Avraham Shohat upon his return from talks with senior officials in the United States. Reporter Harley Braidman asked Shohat to sum up his trip.

[Begin recording] [Shohat] I guest that it was quite a successful trip. The atmosphere that I found there is a very positive one. I can say that each one of the secretaries I spoke to mentioned again and again his positive attitude toward Israel, his positive attitude toward what we are doing in Israel from the point of view of economic plan, from the point of view of absorption of the new immigrants. I would say that I felt very, very good after visiting those people.

[Braidman] And you believe we have ensured the aid for the next couple of years?

[Shohat] You can't say it for sure; it's not written in the U.S. Constitution that they have to give to us $3 billion every year. For the year of 1994, I believe it is almost finished with a positive result. I don't know what will be in 1995, but I would say that the atmosphere in the United States is not so much in favor of the foreign aid. Therefore, we have to be very careful from being so sure that we will able to get in the coming years.

[Braidman] What about those voices back home which are saying that Israel itself should initiate, perhaps, a cut in the civilian aid from the United States?

[Shohat] I'm very much against this attitude. I don't think it's wise to do it. [end recording]

Investments in Golan To Be Subtracted From U.S. Guarantees

TA2203095693 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 22 Mar 93 p 16

[Report by Nehama Dowek]

[Excerpt] It was learned from a very senior Treasury source yesterday that, according to the Israeli-U.S. agreement on the guarantees, the Americans will be entitled to subtract funds invested in the Golan Heights from the total sum of the guarantees.

It has been learned that, as part of the agreement, the U.S. Administration announced that every cent invested in the territories will be subtracted from the guarantees raised the following year. To this end, the Americans will fuliy rely on reports received from Israel. The source noted that it was also agreed that although Israeli law applies in the Golan Heights, the Americans will be entitled to consider the Golan the same as Judaea and Samaria.

Nevertheless, the issue remains open to negotiation, and the Americans may be persuaded not to subtract funds invested in the Golan Heights. [passage omitted]

Rabin Rejects Butrus-Ghali's Proposal To Send UN Observers

NC2203122293 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 20 Mar 93 p 1

[Report by Hamdi Fu'ad in New York]

[Excerpt] UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali has asked Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin to implement Security Council Resolution 799 on the deportees and Resolution 681, which calls for the protection of Palestinian civilians in the occupied territories.

After his meeting with Rabin Thursday night, Butrus-Ghali told AL-AHRAM that he expressed to Rabin deep concern about the situation in the occupied territories. He said he asked Rabin to take a prompt decisive act to end the bad situation there. He said he proposed the dispatch of a group of observers to the occupied territories, but Rabin did not welcome the proposal, saying it was premature. [passage omitted]

King Husayn on Peace Process, Other Issues

JN2003201593 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 20 Mar 93

[Report on interview with Jordan's King Husayn by unidentified correspondent from Chilean magazine COSAS; place and date not given]

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn has said that the new U.S. Administration is showing great promise, citing its declared commitment to democracy and human rights and to work with others to change the world into a more secure and happier place for future generations. The opportunity that has presented itself for us to find a solution to the Middle East problem must be seized or it will be lost forever, his majesty stated.

Interviewed by the Chilean magazine COSAS, His Majesty King Husayn called for the UN Security Council to be turned into a body that better reflects present global and human realities, which, he noted, have changed since the United Nations came into being.

Asked for his assessment of the way the United States is conducting itself internationally, his majesty said: I hope we will be able both to learn the lessons of the past, and to avoid past mistakes. I am convinced, his majesty added, that in light of recent global upheavals, we must engage ourselves in dialogue if we are to make sense of what is taking place around the world. I think the application of single standards has, sadly, been somewhat lacking. The world is going through a difficult phase, and we hear much talk about the destruction of weapons of mass destruction. In this part of the world, his majesty added, we have the case of a country that has yet to sign the nuclear nonproliferation treaty, and which we all well know to possess nuclear weaponry. We are looking forward to the time when double standards will cease to be the norm. It seems to me that the exclusive club of nations possessing weapons of mass destruction will inevitably expand, regardless of whether Iraq has such weaponry now or will possess it in the future. This is why we are proposing that we proceed in a more responsible fashion.

Asked about the Arab-Israeli dispute, his majesty said: I believe there are two different trends in Israel—one deeming all the occupied Arab territories Israeli property, the other apparently interested in a purely Jewish state. However, we hope that UN Security Council Resolution 242 will lay the groundwork for a universal settlement whereby the Palestinian problem—the source of regional instability—is worked out so as to take account of the rights of the Palestinians on their soil. All aggrieved parties should be afforded the opportunity to realize their dreams and aspirations without detriment to the interests of others. His majesty feared that if no speedy settlement to the Middle East conflict is attained, the region would be in for quite a bleak and risk-fraught future. The parties to the conflict in the region are all agreed on the need to change, his majesty the king asserted.

Asked whether he saw himself going to Israel as President Anwar al-Sadat did, His Majesty King Husayn said: That seems to be uncalled for. We must seek to solve both our bilateral and multilateral problems. It is critical that we acknowledge the need to exert ourselves. It seems to me that our country has done its share. I happen to think that it will be possible to reach some form of basic understandings on moving forward. In my opinion, movement must hinge on substance rather than spectacular theatrics. Asked how omptimistic he was despite many unfulfilled promises, his majesty said this was a sad situation. His majesty noted that over the past four decades many promises have gone unfulfilled; principles and commitments have also failed to be honored. Nevertheless, I still have hope and faith. In this part of the world, his majesty noted, individual and human rights are less than respected. The Arabs everywhere are looking foward to positive movement so that we may be arrive at a situation where individuals enjoy security and can help build a better future for humanity. With all the darkness surroudnig us, there are signs that people are still looking foward to a future when the individual's worth is recognized and the right man occupies his proper place.

Answering a question on the current peace talks and obstacles facing it, his majesty said: I am waiting for the talks to resume soon. However, I also expect that a solution will be reached to the serious problem of the persons who were expelled from their homeland and who are experiencing painful conditions. These persons deserve respect regardless of our stand. Therefore, I hope that this situation, which will be the subject of several discussions, will be taken into consideration. On the other hand, although the problem is a Palestinian-Israeli one, it affects other states in the region such as Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon. Consequently, it is a regional problem. Of course, we should all tackle it and contribute to resolving it.

His majesty added: It is impossible to resolve the region's problem without considering the rights of the Palestinians. So, the issue is that of Palestinian rights on Palestinian land. We all belong to the same family regardless of our origins. We support the Palestinian people very strongly.

Concerning the dangers posed by the collapse of the socialist states system, his majesty said: In fact, a very serious imbalance has occurred. It currently displays itself in many world problems such as the nonproliferation of weapons of mass destruction and the emergence of new obstacles and crises. It seems to me that necessary policies based on accurate knowledge of what is going on have not been implemented to act in accordance with the principles that all sides share regarding future changes.

Answering a question on Jordanian democracy, his majesty said: It is a process based on setting firm democratic bases to make Jordan an example to be followed by the rest of states in this region. We are heading toward the end of the term of the current parliament. We can notice

progress concerning political parties and political pluralism. This is done through a true committee representing all political trends in the country from far right to far left. A national document has been prepared. We are proceeding with its implementation. The issue of respect for human rights in Jordan has also been tackled. There is a movement to prepare a document to defend human rights in other states.

In answer to a question about responding to the Chilean president's invitation to His Majesty King Husayn and Her Majesty Queen Nur to visit Chile, his majesty said: A visit to Chile and Latin America has been a strong desire for many years. He expressed the hope that the invitation will be realized this year.

The magazine explained that His Majesty King Husayn is a respected, important, and key statesman who is sought widely by newsmen in a very volatile region. This is in addition to his wisdom, intelligence, and awareness of the various components of the Middle East equation.

The magazine said that Jordan is a unique and exciting country which combines a traditional and modern outlook on life where the East is mixed with the West. This is reflected in behavior and development patterns and good traditions.

COSAS magazine, which has a wide circulation in Chile, pointed to the unique phenomenon when over a million Jordanians took to the streets to receive His Majesty King Husayn upon his safe return to the homeland.

Libya's al-Muntasir Arrives on Visit 20 Mar

JN2003124493 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 20 Mar 93

[Text] 'Umar al-Muntasir, secretary of the Libyan People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation, this morning arrived in Amman on a visit to Jordan during which he will meet with senior officials. The Libyan official will also hold talks and exchange views and consultations on developments in the region, and on Arab and international issues of mutual concern. He will also discuss relations between the two fraternal countries.

Al-Muntasir was receive at the airport by Foreign Minister Dr. Kamil Abu-Jabir, senior Foreign Ministry officials, and the secretary general of the Libyan Arab brotherhood bureau in Amman.

Meets With Prime Minister

JN2003170093 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 20 Mar 93

[Text] Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir received at his office today 'Umar al-Muntasir, secretary of the Libyan People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation. Foreign Minister Dr. Kamil Abu-Jabir attended the meeting.

The Libyan official briefed the prime minister on the results of the Arab League's seven-member committee meeting in Tunis. The meeting was held at the end of last week to discuss means of settling the Libyan-Western crisis in an honorable way.

The prime minister and the guest minister also reviewed bilateral relations and means of promoting them, particularly means of reactivating economic cooperation between the two fraternal countries.

The Jordanian ambassador in Tripoli and the Libyan ambassador in Amman also attended the meeting.

Comments After Meeting

JN2003181993 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1630 GMT 20 Mar 93

[Excerpts] Amman, 20 Mar (PETRA)—Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir received at his office today 'Umar al-Muntasir, secretary of the Libyan People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation. Foreign Minister Dr. Kamil Abu-Jabir attended the meeting. [passage omitted]

Following the meeting, al-Muntasir said that he exchanged views with the prime minister and foreign minister on current Arab issues and other issues of joint interest.

Answering a question about new Libyan proposals to settle the crisis between Libya and the Western states, as recently disclosed by the Arab League secretary general, he said: I cannot go into details and the issue will be left for the Arab League secretary general to discuss.

He stressed that Libya has implemented UN Security Council Resolution No. 783 on this issue. He expressed a hope to settle Arab differences, redress the current Arab situation, and to unify stands toward all issues facing the nation.

Foreign Minister Dr. Kamil Abu-Jabir received the Libyan official at his office today, and discussed with him bilateral relations and regional and international issues of joint interest.

Islamic Party Official Condemns Terrorism

JN2103120193 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 21 Mar 93 p 3

[By JORDAN TIMES staff reporter P.V. Vivekanand]

[Text] Amman—Jordan's most powerful Islamic movement Saturday [20 March] condemned terrorism of all forms and shapes, but combined the condemnation with a warning to the West against what it described as waging a war against Islam.

Ishaq al-Farhan, President of the Islamic Action Front (IAF), rejected media suggestions that the Feb. 26 bombing of the World Trade Centre in New York could have been carried out by a Muslim group.

"Islam is a religion of peace and does *not* condone terrorism in any form or shape," said Dr. al-Farhan, addressing a press conference held at the IAF's headquarters.

"Even before charges were filed (against the suspects in the case), the Zionist-inspired media have tried and convicted Islam, said Dr. al-Farhan, a member of the Upper House of Parliament.

Two Arab Muslims, both of Palestinian origin, were formally charged in court last week with "aiding and abetting" the blast, which killed six people and wounded over 1,000.

U.S. officials and newspapers have suggested that the suspects, as well as several others sought in the case, are linked to a hardline Egyptian cleric who preaches at a New Jersey mosque.

The media reports, Dr. al-Farhan said, preempt a fair trial of the case in court.

"The Zionist circles have trapped the Americans and Europeans into believing that Islam poses the biggest threat to humanity," he said and referred to "anti-Islam," comments by U.S. and European officials in the wake of the trade centre bombing.

"We condemn all forms of terrorism, whether individual-factional- or state-sponsored," he said. "Terrorism is against all teachings of Islam."

Dr. al-Farhan, said the "only beneficiary" from the World Trade Centre bombing was Israel and suggested that "Zionist hands" could be behind the blast in a bid to "tarnish the image of Islam and Muslims everywhere, particularly Palestine, and shift the attention away from the (Palestinian) expellees" in South Lebanon.

"They want to paint the Arabs and Muslims as terrorists and the Palestinian struggle as terrorism," he said. "Isn't it the right of the Palestinan people to resist the (Israeli) occupation of their land just as the French had the right to resist (the German) occupation (during World War II)?"

According to Dr. al-Farhan, the New York blast is part of a "Western-Zionist assault against Islam and Muslims" prompted by "fears that Islam would replace socialism," which ended with the collapse of the Soviet Union and the East bloc.

"The identity of Islam and the Arab World is under attack, and we should resist the assault with all our might," he said.

The purported anti-Islam campaign, he argued, started with the Gulf war against Iraq and continues with "what is happening in Palestine, Bosnia, Kashmir, Somalia, Algeria, Tunisia, Egypt, the Philippines, Burma, India and wherever Muslims live."

Dr. al-Farhan noted that the main theme that Israeli President Chaim Herzog took to European capitals during a recent visit was "the threat posed to humanity by Islam" and that several European leaders appear to have picked up the slogan.

Dr. al-Farhan said: "Let the West, led by the U.S. and Zionists, be warned against pursing aggressive polices against Islam and making Muslims, who constitute one-fifth of the world population, an enemy.

"Islam is a reality and it is here to say. Nobody can eliminate it with military weapons and conspiracies. The way to deal with it is people and their wishes." [sentence as published]

Dr. al-Farhan and 'Abdallah al-'Akayilah, a member of the Lower House of Parliament representing the Muslim Brotherhood bloc, called on the media to counter the "offensive against Islam."

"This is war," said Dr. al-'Akayilah.

Both Politicians condemned the spate of extremist attacks against tourists in Egypt, but qualified that denunciation by accusing the Cairo government of waging a "war of annihiliation" against Islamic movements in the country.

"How will anyone react to the murder of his own family members by security forces of a regime which practices state terrorism?" asked Dr. al-'Akayilah, citing last week's police stormings of a mosque in Cairo. At least 40 people were killed in the assaults.

Official Says U.S. Source of Terrorist Threat Information

PM1903121393 London AL-WASAT in Arabic 15-21 Mar 93 p 1

[Unattributed report: "From Our Sources"]

[Text] A senior Jordanian official has said that the U.S. ambassador in Amman told Jordanian Prime Minister Zayd Bin-Shakir that "the U.S. Administration received information about terrorist groups' intention to carry out attacks against U.S. tourists in Jordan." He pointed out that this information was behind the warning issued by the United States, in which it warned its nationals about the risks of their being exposed to attacks. Bin-Shakir told the U.S. President that the competent Jordanian organs "have no information or evidence" in this connection and asked him to supply the Jordanian Government with the information available to Washington "in order to cooperate in tackling any potential threats to tourists." Contacts are still continuing between Washington and Amman in this connection.

Jordanian Islamic Party Deputy Interviewed

NC2003134593 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 10 Mar 93 p 12

[Interview with Hamzah 'Abbas Mansur, Jordanian Parliament deputy, secretary of the Islamic Action Front,

and member of the Muslim Brotherhood, by unidentified ETTELA'AT correspondent; place and date not given]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [ETTELA'AT] In your opinion, as a Palestinian residing in Jordan, what is the current state of Jordanian-Palestinian relations?

[Mansur] We consider ourselves one nation in Islam. We hope that the day will dawn when all these superficial boundaries will be removed and the Islamic nations will live as a united ummah. [passage omitted]

[ETTELA'AT] Why hasn't the Muslim Brotherhood [Ikhwanul-Muslimin] formed a party directly instead of embarking on political activity under the umbrella of the Islamic Action Front [Jabhat al- 'Amal al-Islami]?

[Mansur] We are pursuing two objectives. First, we are trying to create an organization that can embrace a larger number of Islamists. The Muslim Brotherhood is an organization that moves within a very specific framework and cannot easily cater to the wishes of the majority of the Muslim people. Therefore, we found the Islamic Action Front a suitable alternative to rally the activists and strugglers around. These could be individuals or Islamic organizations and associations, regardless of their group affiliations. As you are aware, the number of deputies in a parliament can play a decisive role. We strongly adhere to our Islamic commitments and will never overlook them.

Second, we do not want the Muslim Brotherhood in Jordan to be treated in the same manner as a political faction, which is formed and then disbanded. In the fifties, when the Jordanian parties were dissolved, the Muslim Brotherhood was not dissolved. Therefore, I should stress that the Muslim Brotherhood is more comprehensive than a party and is not affected by junctures of history or time.

[ETTELA'AT] Is the Islamic Action Front a cover for the Muslim Brotherhood or are there other political parties that are also members?

[Mansur] It would be unjust to say that the front is merely a cover for the activities of the Muslim Brotherhood. At this stage, though, most of the members are from the Muslim Brotherhood. We should not forget that this front is not a mere coordinator among factions. Individuals who join this front do so independently and regardless of their group affiliations. [passage omitted]

[ETTELA'AT] Could you briefly describe the most important objectives and programs of the Islamic Front in Jordan on the local and international level?

[Mansur] It is a newly formed party that officially began its activities on 12 December 1992, which we consider a good omen as this is the day of the commencement of the intifadah.

At present, it has certain programs. There are many committees (at least 30) that assess and make necessary decisions in various fields. The party will soon announce its manifesto, its programs, and objectives regarding local, Arab, and international matters.

In terms of Jordan, the faction wants to Islamicize the society by using legal methods and by entering government organizations such as the parliament. Then it can compile and approve Islamic laws through tactfulness, advice, and guidance. The Islamic Action Front insists on the consolidation of national unity, and those who believe it is a sectarian and egocentric party, should be assured that this is not so. We move on the basis of the Islamic culture and civilization, and this culture has been able to encompass both Muslims and non-Muslims.

The Palestinian issue enjoys a special position in the objectives and programs of the party and a special committee has been set up in this regard. The faction also envisages a special role for women.

[ETTELA'AT] You have mentioned the position of the Palestinian issue in the objectives of the Islamic Action Front. Do you have a special program or plan for combating the Middle East peace talks?

[Mansur] [passage omitted] We try to take every opportunity to expose the true nature of the Zionists—at the Friday congregations, from the rostrum of the Jordanian parliament, and by other means.

We continually declare that seeking peace with the Zionist enemy is like chasing a mirage. I believe that the Zionist government will never give any concessions to the Arabs. Those who are laboring under this delusion should rest assured that they will not gain anything. The fate of the current era is in the hands of the Zionists. Anything that occurs in any part of the world is committed by them. [passage omitted]

[ETTELA'AT] How are the relations between the Islamic Revolution of Iran and the Islamic movements in the Arab world in general? [passage omitted]

[Mansur] As I mentioned during the visit of Nateq-Nuri, the esteemed Speaker of the Iranian Majles, I believe that Iran is not an ordinary country in the Islamic world, neither is Sudan. A country that functions on the basis of Islam and has an Islamic government is viewed differently by Muslims. Therefore the branches of the Islamic movement, (regardless of their names or position) expect the Islamic countries to prove that they are not confined to geographical boundaries but are concerned with the entire Islamic ummah. [passage omitted]

Imam Khomeyni (may God be pleased with him) was the first to teach us that the United States is the Archsatan and we have always been strongly in favor of adopting the call of Imam Khomeyni and the cry of the Islamic Republic of Iran as a symbol and pivot of our struggle against the United States.

The presence of the United States in the region threatens the entire Islamic ummah, without any exception and even threatens the very existence of Islam. It is a threat

to all the peoples in the region, whether Indians, Pakistanis, or Iranians. We hope that the spirit of Imam Khomeyni will prevail in the entire Islamic world. [passage omitted]

[ETTELA'AT] The events in Algerian have inspired apprehension in Western and regional circles. A similar situation exists in Jordan. Are you optimistic about the future?

[Mansur] I think that there is a difference between the situations in Algeria and in Jordan. Unfortunately, those who ruled Algerian disgraced the 130-year long jihad of the Muslim Algerian people. The Algerian politicians have links with France and other foreign countries, but the Algerian people (the Islamists) are sincere and selfless Muslims.

It is possible that the situation in Jordan is different from that of Algeria because the Islamic struggle in Jordan has a longer history. [passage omitted]

The Western mass media and the international circles have exerted immense pressure on the king of Jordan to change his policies. It would be wonderful if the rulers of Algeria, Tunis, and Egypt were to behave in the same sagacious and wise manner as King Husayn. Therefore I think that it is highly unlikely that what has happened in Algeria will ever occur in Jordan.

[ETTELA'AT] What kind of links do you have with the Islamic Liberation Party [Hizb al-Tahrir al-Islami]? Have you invited its members to join the Islamic Action Front?

[Mansur] There is no doubt that most of the members of the Islamic Liberation Party are our friends. [passage omitted]

The arena is open to all Muslim strugglers. After the Islamists entered parliament, the relations between the Muslim Brotherhood and the Islamic Liberation Party expanded and it is expected that they will broaden further. They did not consider it expedient to join the Islamic Action Front and we respect their wishes. They are not willing to join the parliament or cabinet and are not even willing to commence their activities officially within the framework of an official party. We had no objection to the participation of the Islamic Liberation Party members in the Islamic Action Front, but they did not accept it. [passage omitted]

[ETTELA'AT] Radicals [preceding word in English] and so-called hardliners emerged from the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt. Have similar tendencies emerged in Jordan's Muslim Brotherhood as well?

[Mansur] There are certain differences of opinion within the Muslim Brotherhood in Jordan, which have not been perceived outside the organization and which indicates a very natural trend. This is also due to differences in age. We must remember that the Muslim Brotherhood came into existence at a time that is very different from the current era. We are grateful to God for the cohesion and unanimity among the younger generation and the more senior members of the Muslim Brotherhood, even though the younger members are now in the forefront of the Brotherhood and in the Islamic Action Front. The crux of the matter is that what has happened in Egypt has not happened in Jordan.

We attribute this situation to two factors: First, most of the so-called radical movements in Egypt are products of the tyranny and oppression that continues in the Egyptian prisons against the Muslim Brotherhood forces. This has resulted in the adoption of an extremist stance by the Islamists in Egypt.

The situation in Jordan is far different. Therefore the motivation for confrontation or resistance against the system with the use of force and violence does not exist. On the contrary, we enjoy a relative freedom in our country.

Second, within the ranks of the Muslim Brotherhood of Jordan, the views and opinions of the younger members are given due importance and we function as a council. Therefore there is no reason for the younger members to resort to a hardline approach.

[ETTELA'AT] We thank you for your time.

Arabs, Muslims Urged To Demand End to Iraq Embargo

JN2003100093 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 20 Mar 93 p 1

[Editorial: "Why This Persistence in Provoking Iraq?"]

[Text] Whenever Iraq shows its readiness to cooperate with the UN inspection teams, and whenever such teams acknowledge this to be true, the U.S.-Atlantic campaign against Iraq gets more ferocious, conspiratorial, and provocative. In this context, U.S. planes continue to violate Iraqi airspace and drop flares on people and their crops and cattle.

On the other hand, instructed by the United States and its NATO allies, Turkey holds the Euphrates waters and builds dams to prevent water from flowing to Iraq.

These are provocative acts aimed at tightening the economic blockade imposed on Iraq. They constitute an attempt to strangle the Iraqi people and prevent them from achieving development, reconstruction, and self-reliance.

Meanwhile, pressured and influenced by Kuwait and the Arab Gulf oil shaykhs, and directed by Washington, the UN Security Council postponed a session on the blockade imposed on Iraq. This reflects a persistence in harming Iraqi children, the elderly, women, and the sick.

However, the U.S. Administration does not dare implement the UN Security Council resolution pertaining to the treacherous Serbian aggression against the Muslims

of Bosnia-Herzegovina, nor does it dare send food and medical supplies to Muslims there.

This shows that the U.S. Administration insists on dealing with nations' issues and disputes with exposed double standard and in accordance with its interests and ambitions to extend its political, economic, and military influence over the oil-rich areas and strategic regions.

As for the Arab and Islamic states, these have not seized the opportunity of the advent of the blessed month of Ramadan to extend the hand of support to the Muslim people of Iraq and their children, thousands of whom are perishing as a result of the scarcity of food and medicine.

In addition, Arab and Islamic nations will soon celebrate the blessed 'Id al-Fitr, and Muslims and their children will soon enjoy 'Id feasts. Meanwhile, the children of Iraq are deprived even of the chance to survive.

On this blessed occasion, we pray to God Almighty to grant the Arab and Islamic nations the blessings of concord and reconciliation, as well as the ability to purge the holy places of the filth of the occupation and to restore them from the invaders. We hope the Arab and Islamic peoples will raise their voice and demand that the unjust blockade imposed on the Arab Muslim people of Iraq be lifted. Honorable Arabs and Muslims cannot rejoice on the blessed 'Id al-Fitr nor enjoy what God has bestowed upon them while the Iraqi people and their children are deprived of even the basic requirements of life and of essential food and medicine.

Minister Announces New Gas Field in al-Rishah

JN2203085593 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 22 Mar 93 pp 1,5

["Special to the JORDAN TIMES" by Mamduh Hawamidah]

[Text] Amman—Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources 'Ali Abu-al-Raghib Sunday [21 March] announced the discovery of a new gas field in the al-Rishah region in the northeast, 50 kilometres from fields which are already producing gas.

Mr. Abu-al-Raghib also said that the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources will launch explorations for oil in the Dead Sea region at a depth of 1,000 metres since indications were that the area contains oil. The work will start immediately after the 'Eid holidays, he told the Jordan Times and al-Ra'y.

Results of preliminary explorations for gas in the al-Rishah have shown that the new-found filed could produce gas on a commercial level, the minister said, adding that the expected output was more than the current gas production at al-Rishah fields.

The gas produced from the new field will be used to generate power as well as for industrial purposes, and will offer a substantial substitute for imported energy, Mr. Abu-al-Raghib said.

The production capacity of the new field will be determined after the completion of tests being conducted by the Natural Resources Authority (NRA) and expected to be concluded in early April.

The find acquires added significance because it was discovered 50 kilometres from al-Rishah fields which now produce gas, indicating that Jordan has a substantial deposit of gas, he added.

Output from the present fields is used to fuel two 30-megawatt turbines in the al-Rishah region and the generated power is linked with the national grid. The capacity of the power-generating facility is expected to be raised by 30 megawatts by July this year.

The NRA, in cooperation with Petrocanada, a Canadian government agency, will increase current production of gas at al-Rishah to 46 million cubic feet per day from the current 23 million cubic feet per day and three other fields would be linked to the power-generating facility, according to the minister.

Mr. Abu-al-Raghib expected the expansion project to be completed by early July.

The NRA will also, for the first time, launch three-dimensional seismological surveys in the Dead Sea region with the objective of determining the geological nature of the region in preparation to digging oil wells, the minister said.

A better picture of the overall oil and gas situation in Jordan is expected to emerge by the end of this year, he added.

The NRA will launch 100-metre deep exploratory wells in the Dead Sea area—in 'Ayn al-Hummar in the central part—immediately after the 'Eid holidays, the minister said.

Seismological surveys will initially focus on the tip of the Dead Sea.

South Korea's Hanbo company, which has signed an oil and gas exploration contract with the Jordanian government, has almost completed the necessary geological and geophysical studies related to the digging of two exploratory wells in its area of concession, the minister said.

Birri on Resolution 425, Arab Assistance

NC1903201693 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1703 GMT 19 Mar 93

[Speech by Lebanese Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri at a banquet hosted by the Islamic Grouping Movement in Beirut's Coral Beach Hotel—live]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Gentlemen, our meeting today, 19 March, marks Revelation Night and coincides with the 15th anniversary of the adoption of Resolution 425 by the UN Security Council. It has been clear since the start that Israel refuses to implement this resolution for reasons chief among which is its not wanting to let the United Nations play its natural role of guaranteeing regional peace and security. Despite failing to achieve its political and, indeed, military, objectives in 1978 and 1982, it has sought to block the implementation of this resolution so that it would not constitute a precedent in using UN forces as a guarantor of borders. It saw it as contradicting its expansionist policy at the expense of others' borders. Despite new international facts illustrating the UN's increasing peacekeeping role in various parts of the world, Israel still insists that its case represents an international exception and that guaranteeing security and peace in the Middle East must be carried out in line with Israeli conditions and security arrangements. This is a very serious issue, representing permanent defiance of the international community's wishes. It also raises questions about the credibility of international powers that resort to pressure when they deal with the Arab world's causes and the Lebanese issue in particular.

There are methods to promote the implementation of Resolution 425 and they operate on several levels. First, on the domestic level, we must seek to free Lebanon from its pursuit of an experimental policy, when the country has a UN resolution in hand. We must seek to liberate this resolution from the context of the negotiations so that Lebanon might not be held hostage to the results of these negotiations and become the place where various regional tensions are released. Lebanon must not be a testing ground for experimental peace settlements as it has been a center for absorbing the region's crisis, paying the price in human and territorial terms.

Second, to demonstrate international credibility, a timetable must be drawn up to implement Resolution 425 and establish peace on the international border. The first step is to turn into reality a concept included in Resolution 425 that calls for placing the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon [UNIFIL] at the Lebanese Government's disposal. This means that authority anywhere in Lebanon must be in the hands of the Lebanese Army and security forces, even in UNIFIL's operational area. [applause]

The use of the term dual command in the same operational area precludes proper interaction between the two parties concerned with implementing the relevant UN resolution. I mean by this the Lebanese Army and UNIFIL. It also points to clear collusion and an attempt to give a different interpretation to Resolution 425. [passage omitted]

Gentlemen, if the Arab world spent 10 percent of its expenditure on weapons to promote democracy, it would become more secure and prosperous. [applause] Gentlemen, I repeat that Lebanon's reconstruction is an Arab responsibility. The most important and hidden aspect of the problem among the Arabs is that it is a problem between north and south, between poor and rich. Spending money to promote democracy and end poverty is more effective than purchasing and stockpiling weapons. It is not the weapon, but its bearer that inspires fear. Let us then help man and neglect the evil war machine. Any machine can be used for good or evil, depending on its operator. Lebanon was ruined with Israeli help. Its reconstruction must be done with Arab assistance. [applause] [passage omitted]

Buwayz: Arabs Undecided on Talks Participation

NC2003174293 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 20 Mar 93

[Text] Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz announced today that the Arab delegations to the Washington talks have not yet decided whether to participate in the next round of bilateral talks with Israel.

He noted that before this round starts, a positive measure is required that reassures the Arab side of Israel's readiness to implement Resolution 799.

Buwayz, Russian Envoy Comment on Ninth Round

NC2103124993 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1150 GMT 21 Mar 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz received Viktor Posuvalyuk, Russian envoy to the countries involved in the bilateral and multilateral peace talks, at his home a short time ago. The envoy will hand him a message from his Russian counterpart Andrey Kozyrev. Posuvalyuk had earlier visited Damascus and handed Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' a message from his Russian counterpart which, according to Russian diplomatic sources in Damascus, dealt with the peace process and the need to give it impetus.

We have just learned that the meeting between Buwayz and the Russian envoy has ended. Here is the report:

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] Minister Buwayz, how do you assess the talks you just held?

[Buwayz] We received a message from our Russian counterpart Kozyrev dealing with the peace process and resumption of the talks. We briefed the envoy on our view of developments in the peace conference and of the need to give it more credibility because it is going through a very critical stage today as a result of the Israeli decision to deport Palestinian citizens. The effect of this on the Arab arena undoubtedly shows how much

the international community, led by the United States and Russia, need to do to restore confidence in the seriousness of international justice and the seriousness of implementing and abiding by the Security Council resolutions.

We do not believe the current climate contributes to holding serious negotiations. Even if these negotiations are held, we believe that there is a need for changing the climate to ensure their credibility.

[Correspondent] Did your Russian counterpart ask you to accept the invitation to the ninth round and what was your answer?

[Buwayz] Of course. The Russian envoy's mission is to urge the parties to resume the talks and to accept this invitation. But we conveyed to him Lebanon's stand on this issue and our reservations. In any case, we will take the proper stand in accordance with Arab solidarity at the next meeting of the Arab foreign ministers. [end recording]

That was Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz. The Russian envoy then spoke to the correspondents. He said:

[Begin recording] [Posuvalyuk in progress] ...and the Russian ambassador. I did in fact hand him a message from his counterpart Andrey Kozyrev dealing with bilateral relations and with the peace process issues. As for the second part of your question, yes, the Russian sponsor in the peace process believes, together with the U.S. sponsor, that resuming the talks in the second half of April is possible. The two cosponsors have proposed this resumption in Washington and sent out the invitations. Regarding the deportation issue, we believe in Moscow—and this is the view of many parties—that there is no direct link preventing the resumption of the negotiations. There is one observation, namely that the international community, including Russia, will exert efforts to urge the Israeli Government to proceed with the implementation of Resolution 799 and bring the deportees issue to an end.

[Correspondent] But the Palestinian side has so far refused to receive the invitation and has the Jordanian side's support. Do you believe that only Lebanon and Syria will accept the invitation?

[Posuvalyuk] We are in constant contact with all the parties. We hope that the esteemed Arab participants will find an opportunity to participate in the ninth round.

[Correspondent] Is that your understanding from your visit to Damascus and talks with Minister al-Shar'?

[Posuvalyuk] As I understand it, many things now depend on the outcome of the foreign ministers meeting in Damascus. The Russian sponsor's view, advice, and hope is that the conferees will decide to participate in the ninth round. But the decision is in the hands of the respected ministers meeting in Damascus. [end recording]

Article Views Reasons for Shammas' Departure

NC1903172193 Beirut AL-DIYAR in Arabic 11 Mar 93 pp 1, 11

[Excerpt] Why did Ambassador Suhayl Shammas, Foreign Ministry secretary general, ask to be relieved of all his duties when he is also the head of the Lebanese delegation to the negotiations with the Israeli enemy?

Before answering this question, we must first ponder information from London and Israel, part of which was reported by various news agencies and part by the sister newspaper AL-HAYAH. The information is as follows: An Israeli "veto" on Ambassador Shammas: Uri Lubrani, head of the Israeli delegation negotiating with Lebanon, has asked that Ambassador Shammas be relieved of his post because:

The Lebanese ambassador insisted on recording the minutes of all the meetings. When Lubrani asked for U.S. intervention on the grounds that this was not customary negotiating practice, Shammas clung to his position and explained that various political streams in Lebanon would want to know what happened during the meetings. The Americans agreed with Shammas despite Israel's objections.

There was a sharp exchange of words between Shammas and Lubrani after Hizballah carried out a major operation inside the border strip. Lubrani accused the Lebanese state of permitting terrorists to infiltrate the strip. Shammas responded that resisting occupation is a legitimate act.

Lubrani demanded that the Palestinian resistance in the West Bank, which receives instructions from south Lebanon, be curtailed. Shammas opposed laying this responsibility on Lebanese shoulders and said this Palestinian activity is the result of Israel's mass deportation policy.

One week after this fierce debate, the JERUSALEM REPORT magazine published Shammas' title as follows: "Muhammad Suhayl Shammas, head of the Lebanese delegation, has stated..." [ellipsis as published] Ambassador Shammas realized the Israelis were hinting that he belongs in the "Muslim" camp, as if his policy opposes Christian policy.

Ambassador Shammas rejected the proposal to form a joint security committee—meaning an Israeli-Lebanese military committee—in the border strip. He left the meeting in protest.

Following these positions, Lubrani began to press for Shammas' removal on the grounds that he is uncooperative, inflexible, and makes long speeches that have no bearing on the peace process. Lubrani submitted his protest in writing to the U.S. Administration. Note that Ambassador Shammas will reach retirement age in four months but many ministers favor extending his tenure.

Apart from this foreign information about the Israeli attitude to Shammas, there are other reasons why he

asked to be relieved of his duties. These reasons emerged at the same time as the foregoing but they are not known. Although he is close to President al-Hirawi, it is certain there is a major disagreement with Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz. Its nature is not known but it drove Shammas to submit his request to be relieved of his duties directly to the Prime Minister, not Buwayz.

In diplomatic lingo, the Foreign Ministry secretary general and head of the negotiating delegation used the term "to be relieved of his duties" not "resignation." Minister Buwayz' sources maintain that Shammas resigned. What proved there was a disagreement between Shammas and Minister Buwayz was Buwayz's objection to putting Shammas' request to be relieved of his duties on the Cabinet's agenda. Buwayz objected because Shammas did not submit his request to his immediate superior—himself.

It was also noticed that Shammas' request was placed high on the agenda of the Cabinet meeting but was not accompanied by the letter containing the request, so preventing ministers from viewing its contents and justifications. The ministers sided with Buwayz.

Will Shammas' request to be relieved of his duties affect the Lebanese delegation? Shammas is regarded by the Lebanese, Arabs, and Americans as eminently competent and diplomatically mature. The heads of the other Arab delegations have testified to this and it was Shammas who first introduced the concept of coordinating the positions of the Arab delegations. He made this proposal at the first meeting in Washington. All the Arab delegations accepted the idea and later, coordination meetings were upgraded to the foreign minister level. Shammas believed that no Arab country should take any step without coordinating with the others to strengthen the Arab position.

The second question is: Will relieving Shammas of his duties or his resignation throw the Lebanese delegation into confusion, particularly as the date of the next round of bilateral talks has been set for 20 April, about a month from now? Can his replacement, whoever he is, fill his shoes and hold his own against the Israeli enemy who continuous to maneuver and place spokes in the wheels of the negotiations?

From a patriotic viewpoint, it is impermissible to exert pressure on an official "vetoed" by the Israeli enemy because of his positions. And regardless of the disagreement between him and Minister Buwayz, its pressure should not lead Ambassador Shammas to ask to be relieved of his duties when Uri Lubrani is launching a violent campaign against him because of his eminently patriotic and diplomatic positions. [passage omitted]

Nasrallah Tells Rally Israel Must Be 'Erased'

NC1903181393 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 19 Mar 93

[Text] Today Hizballah celebrated International Jerusalem Day with a mass rally in the southern suburb and promised jihad to destroy Israel.

Hizballah Secretary General Shaykh Hasan Nasrallah told the rally that a compromise between Israel and the Arab countries will allow Israel to impose its hegemony on Muslim countries. He said the Islamic resistance against Israel will continue even if the peace talks result in a settlement agreement.

Addressing the [Arab] negotiators, regimes, and peoples, Nasrallah said Israel must be erased from existence, something that will happen sooner or later. He added: Israel's borders will not be fortified by any settlement or peace treaty reached according to U.S.-Israeli conditions.

PFLP, Fatah Cited on 18 Mar Attack

NC1903204893 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 19 Mar 93

[Text] Our cor.espondent in the south reports that al-Hamra' Farm on the outskirts of Arnun came under 155-mm artillery bombardment from Israeli forces' positions on al-Shurayfah hill inside the border strip at 1800 today.

Our correspondent adds that Israeli helicopters flew over the al-Litani River basin and al-Hamra' area at around 1900, raking the area with large-caliber machine guns.

Citing a source close to Major General Antoine Lahd's forces [South Lebanese Army, SLA], AFP reports that an SLA member was wounded in an attack on Bayt Lif position in the Israeli-occupied border strip last night. The SLA retaliated by firing eight shells on a valley near Bayt Lif.

In a statement issued in Beirut, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] claimed the operation. It said the group that carried out the attack included fighters from the PFLP and pro-'Arafat Fatah Movement. Fatah, however, did not deny or confirm the report.

Sultan Abu-al-'Aynayn, Fatah's military official in Tyre said: We have not decided to end or freeze activity and we oppose publicized operations.

SLA Positions Attacked, No Casualties Reported

NC1903183393 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 19 Mar 93

[Text] Security sources report that two South Lebanese Army [SLA] patrols were attacked today; however, no casualties were reported. A clash involving machine guns and rockets took place at 1300 today in Jabal al-Rayhan near Jazzin. One hour later, rockets were fired on an SLA

patrol near Rshaf. The Israeli army and the SLA retaliated by firing dozens of shells on areas near the two sites. The shelling did not cause any victims.

The Amal Movement claimed responsibility for a rocket attack on an SLA position last night. It said the attack was carried out on the occasion of the International Jerusalem Day, which has been celebrated since 1979 on the inititaive of Imam Khomeyni.

Rockets Fired at Israeli Patrol 19 Mar

NC2003073293 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0415 GMT 20 Mar 93

[Text] Rockets were fired last night at an Israeli patrol in the border strip area. Security sources said that an Israeli helicopter was seen landing in the area of the incident, which took place near Mazra'at al-Hamra' in the central sector of the border strip. The sources added that the helicopter may have evacuated the wounded.

Lebanese police sources said that following this incident, Israeli artillery shelled the outskirts of two villages near the border strip. Flares were also fired.

It should be recalled that four other attacks have taken place against patrols of the South Lebanese Army [SLA] in the past 24 hours, wounding one SLA soldier.

The outskirts of Arnun came under Israeli artillery fire last night. Israeli helicopters also raked the al-Litani River basin and the al-Hamra' area.

Israeli Helicopters Fire on Villages 20 Mar

NC2003120493 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1130 GMT 20 Mar 93

[Text] Iqlim al-Tuffah hills came under artillery fire at 1100 today from Israeli positions in al-Zaffatah. Our correspondent said that the shelling concentrated on al-Luwayzah and Mlikh for one hour.

Israeli helicopters flew over Iqlim al-Tuffah at noon today, raking al-Rayhan mountain with large-caliber machine-gun fire.

Joint Amal-Hizballah Group Attacks Israeli Posts

NC2003133593 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 1230 GMT 20 Mar 93

[Text] Resistance men have carried out a large-scale attack on occupation forces and agent positions in the south.

A statement issued by the Joint Operations Room of Hizballah and the Amal Movement said that on 20 March 1993 a joint Hizballah-Amal group launched a large-scale attack on Sujud and (Bi'r Kallab) positions, where clashes took place between personnel of the two posts. Machine guns and rockets were used.

At noon today, Israeli occupation forces and their agents shelled with mortars Mlita hills, Jabal Safi, and al-Luwayzah woods in Iqlim al-Tuffah from their positions in Sujud, al-Suwayda', and al- Zaffatah.

Israeli helicopters raked al-Rayhan Mountain with large- and medium-caliber machine guns again at 1330 today.

The occupation forces set up a roadblock at the western approach to Arnun before noon today and searched cars and checked passengers' identity cards.

SLA Kills Palestinian, Captures Amal Member

NC2003083493 (Clandestine) Voice of the South in Arabic to Lebanon 0800 GMT 20 Mar 93

[Text] According to our military correspondent, South Lebanese Ar~y [SLA] units killed a Palestinian saboteur and captured an Amal Movement member who were trying to plant an explosive charge on the Bra'shit road last night. They were found in possession of machine guns and explosive charges.

PFLP Confirms Report

NC2103074793 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 21 Mar 93

[Text] The Fatah Movement and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] have issued two statements saying that a joint unit from Fatah and PFLP fighters ambushed a patrol manned by the occupation troops and their agent militiamen in the Bayt Lif-Jabal Humayd area. A grinding battle ensued in which Israeli helicopters took part. The helicopters were used to transport the dead and wounded among the enemy patrol's members. The statements added that the occupation troops bombarded the scene of the operation and as far as Yatar village with artillery. One house was damaged as a result.

[(Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic at 0545 GMT on 21 March broadcasts a related report which adds the following: "The PFLP and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, in a statement issued in Damascus yesterday, claimed responsibility for carrying out a joint operation near Bra'shit village. According to the statement, one member of the joint attacking group was killed and another was captured."]

Foreign Minister Returns From Tunis 19 Mar

JN1903175493 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1730 GMT 19 Mar 93

[Excerpt] Damascus, 19 Mar (SANA)—Foreign Minister Faruq al- Shar' and his delegation returned to Damascus this evening from Tunisia after participating in the meetings of the seven-member Arab League committee held in the Tunisian capital from 18-19 March. [passage omitted]

Al-Shar' Receives Message From Russia's Kosyrev

JN2003125493 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1215 GMT 20 Mar 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' has received a message from Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kosyrev. Viktor Posuvalyuk, director of the Russian Foreign Ministry's Near Eastern and North African Countries Administration, delivered the message when Faruq al-Shar' received him today. Attending the meeting were Dr. Ghassan Raslan, director of the Foreign Ministry's East European Desk, and Aleksandr Zotov, Russian ambassador in Damascus.

The discussion during the meeting dealt with the international situation, the peace process, the deportee issues, and ways of promoting bilateral relations in all fields.

Defense Minister Receives Irish Counterpart

JN2103180193 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1615 GMT 21 Mar 93

[Text] General Mustafa Talas, deputy commander in chief of the Army and Armed Forces, deputy prime minister, and minister of defense, received in his office today David Andrews, Irish defense and marine minister, and his accompanying delegation. The meeting was attended by the head of the Syrian delegation to the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization.

Discussion dealt with friendship and cooperation relations between the Syrian and Irish armies and means to develop these relations to serve the interests of both countries.

The guest minister and the accompanying delegation arrived in Damascus yesterday within the framework of a tour to inspect the Irish troops in the UN forces in the region.

Radio Asks Israel To Remove 'Obstacles'

JN2003174193 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 20 Mar 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: Since the launching of the peaceful U.S. initiative in the wake of the Gulf war, Syria has been keen to explain to the involved parties its concept of peace in the Middle East, its bases, and the framework of the talks. There was a clear agreement to adopt Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and the principle of land for peace as a basis for the process aimed at achieving a just and comprehensive settlement on all fronts of conflict without exception.

The United States was committed to a comprehensive solution and not to resorting to double standards in dealing with the Arab-Israeli conflict. Syria was concerned—despite the obstacles placed by the Shamir government in the path of U.S. Secretary of State James Baker—about facilitating his mission, to show a real Arab desire for a firm and lasting peace, and to open all doors closed by Shamir. Thus, it was possible to convene the Madrid conference and to start the Washington talks.

It was clear from the beginning that Israel came to the talks unwillingly. And the evidence is that its officials wasted five full rounds in raising procedural issues that have nothing to do with the substance of the peace process. Meanwhile, they made provocative statements, outside the framework of the talks, on their determination to devour all occupied Arab territory, establish a greater Israel, and exchange peace for peace.

When Rabin succeeded Shamir, the international community expected a turning point in the Israeli policy vis-a-vis peace. However, these illusions were dispelled. Rabin, in his turn, wasted three rounds without achieving any progress and made proposals which appear peacefully from outside, but in fact are aimed at undermining the ongoing efforts and deviating the talks from their bases, framework, and objectives. At the outset of his term, Rabin announced that he will work to achieve a settlement with the Palestinians within a period of six months. The result: Instead of easing the situation in the occupied territory and creating an appropriate atmosphere for positive talks, Rabin took his big stick to strike the defenseless people. He escalated repression, killing, and the demolition of houses. Furthermore, he recently declared a real war against our people under the yoke of occupation. He expelled hundreds and instructed the tens of thousands of settlers to spread terrorism, storm villages and towns, damage the Palestinians' property, and kill youths and children.

Suddenly, Rabin announced his concern for a settlement with Syria. He made statements on possible partial withdrawal, called for separate meetings that contradict the agreed upon bases of the peace process, and fueled rumors whose only aim is to divide the Arab ranks and cast doubts among the Arab parties involved in the Washington talks.

The question that has to be asked is: What does Rabin want? If the Israeli prime minister truly wants a lasting peace in the Middle East, then the Washington talks provide the right framework and the principles of the Madrid conference provide the right basis. All Rabin has to do is respond to the requirements of peace stipulated in the U.S. initiative and the UN Security Council

resolutions; namely respecting the rights of the people of Palestine and enabling them to exercise their right to self-determination, and withdrawal from all Arab territories occupied in 1967.

During the seventh round of talks, Syria presented constructive proposals, which were thoroughly discussed by the Israelis without giving a positive response to them. These proposals were welcomed by the entire world and were considered by both the Republican and Democratic administrations in the United States as a correct and significant basis to reach the desire just peace.

If Rabin is really interested in peace, as he claims, then he has to remove the obstacles he deliberately placed on the path of the peace process, particularly the Palestinian deportee hurdle. Rabin's implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 799 and returning the deportees to their homes would open the doors wide for the resumption of the peace talks.

But, does Rabin really want peace? All indications and signs show the opposite. The criminal terrorist acts in the occupied territories are against peace. The insistence on separate deals and partial settlements is also against peace. The endeavor to stockpile modern weapons and extort the U.S. taxpayers into financing the expansion of settlement activities around occupied Arab Jerusalem is against peace. The attempt to involve the United States in a strategic alliance and military agreements, and, consequently, undermine the U.S. role pledged by Clinton's administration, is also against peace.

Syria adheres to the comprehensive solution, as affirmed time and time again by President Hafiz al-Asad, and in no way will it go it alone with the peace process. The occupied territories is an issue of concern to all Arabs and the Palestine question is Syria's central cause and main concern.

Syria adheres to the principles and framework of the peace process. The Arabs do not have to prove their desire for peace; they have proved it in words and deeds by going to Washington and by responding to the U.S. initiative and world efforts. Israel is the party that has to prove its intentions and sincerity.

He who wants the real, well-established peace and truly seeks stability in the Middle East does not look for peace in installments, but responds to the Arabs' sincere determination to establish a deep-rooted, comprehensive peace. He who wants the genuine, established peace should work on bringing about favorable conditions for peace by unequivocally and unambiguously declaring his abidance by applying the resolutions of international legitimacy and returning the occupied territories to their rightful owners and ending the suffering of the Palestinian people. Jumping over, and distorting facts and undermining the principles and framework of the Madrid conference is nothing more than an attempt to play games to deceive world public opinion and continue the policy of settlement and aggression which will make things reach an explosive stage at which point peace will become an impossible dream.

Afghanistan

Mojahedin Leaders Meet To Discuss Cabinet

LD1903175893 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 19 Mar 93

[Text] The first session of the leaders and representatives of jehadi groups was held today in Jalalabad, center of Nangarhar Province, to discuss the formation of the cabinet.

A dispatched correspondent of Bakhtar Information Agency reports from Jalalabad that today's session was attended by two representatives from each group and party except that of Hezb-e Eslami Mawlawi Khales and Harakat-e Eslami [led by Asef Mohseni].

The session discussed a number of formulations [formul bandi] in connection with the formation of the cabinet and the establishment of commissions to supervise the ceasefire, financial affairs, and distribution of foodstuffs, which were presented by Esteemed Engineer Golboddin Hekmatyar. It was decided in the session that a representatives from each party should meet and talk with Esteemed Engineer Hekmatyar separately to brief him on their party's view. The talks should continue in tomorrow's session of the issue. It was also stressed that the main issues and points of views should be discussed among the leaders of the groups and the president of Afghanistan.

The following people attended today's session: Esteemed Sayed Nurrulah Emad and Esteemed Engineer Eshaq, as the representatives of Esteemed Professor Burhanodin Rabbani, President of Islamic State of Afghanistan; Esteemed Engineer Golboddin Hekmatyar and Esteemed Qazi Amin Waqad, from Hezb-e Eslami; Esteemed Engineer Ahmad Shah Ahmadzay and Esteemed Haji Dawran from Ettehad-e Eslami; Esteemed Mawlawi Arsalah and Esteemed Abdul Satar Sadiqi, from Harakat-e Enqelabi Eslami; Esteemed Ayatullah Fazel and Esteemed Maqsodi, from Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami; Esteemed Mohammad Qasim and Esteemed Mohammad Omar Babakarzay from Mahaz-e Eslami Afghanistan; Esteemed Dr. Zabihullah Mojaddedi and Esteemed Mawlawi Mohammad Taher, Hezb-e Jabha-e Nejat-e Meli.

Cabinet Formation Postponed to 29 Mar

LD2003174693 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1430 GMT 20 Mar 93

[Text] The meeting of eight jehadi leaders and representatives to discuss various issues continued today in Jalalabad city. A correspondent of the BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY [BIA] reports from Jalalabad city that the meeting began in the morning at 1000 hours at the governor's palace of Nangarhar Province.

First, Esteemed Engineer Golboddin Hekmatyar briefed the session about the results of his separate talks and collective meetings that were held yesterday with representatives of various groups. Then the meeting continued on the issues under discussion.

At the end of the meeting, Esteemed Sayed Nurullah Emad, representative of the president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan spoke to the correspondent of BIA:

[Begin unidentified correspondent recording] Today's talks went ahead in a climate of fraternity and sincerity. It was decided that the final issues should be discussed at the session of the leaders of groups and parties that is scheduled for 29 March in Kabul.

Esteemed Emad said that despite the fact that—according to the Islamabad accord—the cabinet should have been announced two weeks after the date when the peace accord was signed by leaders of the jehadi groups, this period has now been extended for an additional 10 days—to 29 March. This is a result of a number of physical difficulties, such as the visit of the leaders to Saudi Arabia and their visit to the Islamic Republic of Iran, as well as the absence of a number of leaders.

In connection with the presence of Esteemed Eng. Hekmatyar at the meeting of the leaders in Kabul city, Esteemed Emad said that the participants of today's meeting, which was attended by Esteemed Hekmatyar, decided that a meeting of all the leaders should be held in Kabul to make a final decision.

Concerning the importance of the meetings of the leaders during the last few days in Jalalabad, Esteemed Emad said that the aim of these meetings were primarily to prepare the ground for a meeting of the leaders of the groups. This issue was agreed upon unanimously.

In today's session, it was also decided that commissions on the observation of the cease-fire, the distribution of foodstuffs, and financial and military affairs should commence their work prior to the meeting of the leaders of groups in Kabul.

On the other hand, a spokesman for Esteemed Eng. Hekmatyar, prime minister of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, expressed satisfaction about the progress of the meetings held among jehadi groups in Jalalabad and said: The participants of the meetings talked about the issues in a climate of goodwill. Most of the representatives have submitted a list of the people of their choice for the cabinet to Esteemed Eng. Hekmatyar. It is expected that the remaining lists will be handed over to Esteemed Hekmatyar during the course of the day. He added that only the representative of Hezb-e Eslami, Esteemed Mawlawi Mohammad Khales, has not taken part in these meetings. [end recording]

The BIA correspondent adds in his report that all the representatives of jehadi groups expressed optimism about the talks so far and were pleased with the good climate of the meeting. The representatives of the jehadi groups expressed in the Jalalabad talks their honest intention to end the war, establish peace, and end the

sufferings in their country. They hoped that the climate of non-cooperation would be removed from among the groups and parties and a climate of trust and cooperation would be created. They also hoped that all would work toward peace and tranquillity and the reconstruction of the country.

The results and process of talks in Jalalabad has created hope among most of the observers for the solution of the issues that are under discussion.

Hekmatyar Announces Next Meeting

LD2203114293 Tehran IRNA in English 1105 GMT 22 Mar 93

[Text] Islamabad, March 22, IRNA—Leader of Hezb-e Eslami and Prime Minister of Afghanistan Golboddin Hekmatyar says the Jalalabad meeting has "successfully" worked out the composition of his cabinet. Speaking in an interview with the Pakistani daily 'JANG' published today, Hekmatyar said the final decision will be taken at another meeting of the Afghan mujahideen leaders near Kabul in a near future. He did not disclose the exact venue of the session but said the jihad leaders will personally attend it.

Members of the Afghan Government should be elected on the prime minister's proposal and in consultation with the president and Afghan party leaders. According to Hekmatyar his government will allow each party to administer two ministries.

Clashes Resume in Kabul; 15 Killed, 150 Injured

LD2003112393 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 20 Mar 93

[Text] Our colleague reports from Kabul that sporadic clashes between the warring factions during the past 24 hours have left 15 dead and 150 injured in the western and southwestern districts of the city. There are women and children among the casualties. Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami [Islamic Unity Party] and Sayyaf's Ettehad-e Islami [Islamic Union] have blamed each other for the resumption of the clashes.

Last night a delegation of Islamic ulema, headed by Qazi Hoseyn Ahmad, the leader of Pakistan's Jamat-e Islami [Islamic Society], arrived in Kabul in order to bring the views of the Jam'iat-e Islami [Islamic Society] and Hezb-e Islami [Islamic Party] closer together.

Two Killed, 13 Injured 21 Mar

LD2103170793 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 21 Mar 93

[Text] The residential quarters of western Kabul, capital city of Afghanistan, were today subjected to missile and heavy weaponry attacks by Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami [Islamic Unity Party] forces and those forces affiliated with Sayyaf [Abdol Rasul], as a result of which two persons were killed and 13 injured.

The Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami has blamed the forces affiliated with Sayyaf and the Supervisory Council for starting these attacks, which lasted for three hours.

India

Reportage on Latest Bombs, Violence in Calcutta

One Killed, 11 Injured in Railway 19 Mar

BK1903143893 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 19 Mar 93

[Text] In Calcutta, one person was killed and 11 others injured when a bomb exploded at the crowded Sealdah Railway Station this evening. According to the DIG [Deputy Inspector General] of police, five policemen and six civilians were injured in the explosion. Senior police officials have rushed to the spot and investigations are being carried out.

Four Bombs Detected, Defused 21 Mar

BK2103162093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 21 Mar 93

[Text] In West Bengal, a mishap was averted today with the timely detection of four live bombs in the crowded New Market area in Calcutta. According to police officials, the four crude bombs were defused.

Police Give Details on Blasts

BK2103164693 Hong Kong AFP in English 1113 GMT 21 Mar 93

[Excerpt] New Delhi, March 21 (AFP)—A massive explosion here which left 68 people dead occurred while bombs were being assembled in a building owned by a local gambling kingpin, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) reported Sunday.

Police recovered more than two dozen crude bombs from the rubble of the building and a police detective told PTI that stores of nitroglycerine and potassium chloride used in manufacturing explosives had also been discovered.

The explosion in the early hours of Wednesday in Calcutta's central Bow Bazar district left at least 68 people dead and 125 injured, according to police. Hospital sources put the number of dead at 86.

Police have arrested the owner of the building, Rashid Khan, who heads a numbers racket, and an associate in connection with the blast. [passage omitted]

Bihar Activists Explode Bomb on Train Tracks 20 Mar

BK2003050093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0435 GMT 20 Mar 93

[Text] In Bihar, a powerful bomb was found on the railway track between Guatamadhara and Tatti Silvai stations under Ranchi-Muri station of Southeastern Railways this morning. The railway officer told our Ranchi correspondent that some trains, including Howrah- Hathia Express, have been detained at the Guatamdhara station.

The economic blockade called by the All Party Jharkhand Action Committee in Chota Nagpur and Santhal Paragna areas entered the fifth day today.

Jharkhand Group Bombs Tracks 20 Mar

BK2003163493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 20 Mar 93

[Text] In Bihar, derailment of a goods train, removal of fishplates, and bomb blasts to block the rail movement have been reported on the fifth day of the indefinite economic blockade called by the All Party Jharkhand Action Committee. Railway officials told our Ranchi correspondent that 11 bogies of a goods train derailed between the Chaibasa and Pandrasali stations of the Rajkarsawan-Barajamda branch line of Chakradhar Division early this morning. The train services remained suspended on the section today. The deputy commissioner of Chaibasa and senior railway officials have reached the spot. The train services are likely to be restored tomorrow.

In another incident, the Jharkhand activists exploded bombs on railway tracks between the Gangaghat and (Tatisilwai) stations on Ranchi-Muri section and removed fishplates between the Radhagaon and Pundak stations on Muri-Bokaro section, disrupting railway services for several hours.

Jharkhand Activists Explode Bomb 22 Mar

BK2203053293 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0435 GMT 22 Mar 93

[Text] In Bihar, the Jharkhand activists blasted a bomb at the railway track between Balsiring and the Lodhma railway stations in the Hathia Ralkilla section of the South Eastern Railway. Police sources told our Ranchi correspondent that senior police and railway officials have rushed to the spot and investigations have begun. Further details are awaited.

Search Launched for Extremists

BK2103161293 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 21 Mar 93

[Text] In Bihar, a massive combing operation has been launched to nab the extremist elements among the Jharkhand agitators in Chota Nagpur and Santal Pargana areas. The South Chota Nagpur Commissioner told our Ranchi correspondent that bombs and explosive materials have been recovered from some of the arrested persons.

Meanwhile, dispatch of bauxite, iron ore, and manganese has been resumed as rail traffick on the Ranchi-Lohardaga and Tatanagar-Donga Parsi sections began today, following repairs of the track. The deputy commissioner of Lohardaga said that 30 truck loads of bauxite was supplied from Lohardaga mines through roadways. Elsewhere, the dispatch of coal and various forest product is reported to be normal.

The All-party Jharkhand State Struggle Committee has again urged the center to find a speedy solution to the Jharkhand issue. In a joint statement issued in New Delhi today, some prominent leaders of the committee alleged that the state government was resorting into repressive measures and turning a peaceful agitation into a violent one. The signatories to the statement include the president of the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha, Mr. Seebu Soren, and the former minister of state for home, Mr. Subodh Kant Sahay.

Policeman on Possible Sikh Link to Bombay Bombings

BK1903130293 Hong Kong AFP in English 0910 GMT 19 Mar 93

[Text] Chandigarh, India, March 19 (AFP)—A Sikh militant group may have been involved in the string of bombings in Bombay which killed nearly 300 people, the police chief of the northern Indian state of Punjab said Friday.

The outlawed Khalistan Liberation Force (KLF), one of half-a-dozen Sikh militant groups battling for a homeland in Punjab, "could be one of the organisations involved in the bombings," Kanwar Pal Singh Gill said.

Bombay police have blamed the attacks on members of the Muslim underworld in the western Indian port city, but the Punjab director general of police said that other groups may have also taken part.

"Militants from different areas in the country have developed a nexus, and KLF is part of that nexus," he told a news conference here. "It could be one of the organisations involved in the bombings."

Gill said that Sikh militants had often used RDX, a high explosive used in the Bombay blasts, in Punjab. He could not explain why Sikh separatists would choose to target far away Bombay.

Gill discounted the possibility that another Sikh militant group, the largely dormant Khalistan Commando Force (KCF), played a role in the attacks.

A telephone caller claiming to be a KCF spokesman had told an Indian news agency several days after the blasts

that the Sikh militant group had planted the bombs to show that it was "still active."

Gill, whose forces have dealt a series of crushing blows to the Sikh separatist campaign for a homeland called Khalistan (Land of the Pure) in recent months, said the militants had turned Bombay into a major hideout.

"The Punjab police have repeatedly raided that city," he said, adding that security forces had shot dead more than 20 Sikh militants in the western state of Maharashtra, of which Bombay is the capital.

Gill's comments came after a team of forensic experts from Punjab returned from Bombay. Bombay police have said the blasts were masterminded by an Indian Muslim family with links with the underworld which has fled to Dubai.

13 Suspects of Bombay Blasts Detained So Far

BK2003160293 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 20 Mar 93

[Text] Agency reports say that the Bombay police arrested two more persons last night in connection with the bomb blasts in the city on Friday last. Police believe that they are responsible for the blast at Mahim. With these arrests, the number of people detained so far in connection with the blasts has reached 13.

Bombay Blast Prime Suspects Reportedly in Jeddah

BK2103075093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0730 GMT 21 Mar 93

[Text] Yaqub Memon and Ismail Memon, the two prime suspects in last week's Bombay blast are now reported to be in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. They fled Dubayy on Wednesday [17 March]. They had stayed in Dubayy for five days with another of their brothers, Ayub Memon, who is a resident of the Emirates. All the three brothers went to Jeddah together. The AIR [All India Radio] Gulf correspondent reports from Dubayy that Yaqub Memon and his wife had visited the Emirates several times. It is believed that the Memons acquired the Saudi visas from Bombay itself. India had earlier requested the United Arab Emirates Government to help apprehend the Memon brothers, but they fled Dubayy before the emirates authorities could take action on the request.

Pakistan Accused in Bombay Bombing

BK2203124493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 22 Mar 93

[Text] The Bombay police commissioner, Mr. A.S. Samra, has said a fool-proof case has been established against the conspirators responsible for the series of bomb blasts in the city recently. He said the whole episode was a Pakistan plan. Mr. Samra said evidences point out that the people behind the blasts were trained in Karachi. All investigative agencies are working in close coordination. All that is left is to nab the prime suspects, the Memon brothers, who are believed to have fled to Saudi Arabia.

One Killed in Bomb Explosion in Uttar Pradesh

BK2203034293 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 22 Mar 93

[Text] In Uttar Pradesh, one person was killed and three others seriously injured in a bomb explosion in Mathura yesterday. According to official sources, the blast occurred in a house when an activist of the banned Bajrang Dal was manufacturing bombs. Police recovered some bombs and a huge quantity of explosive materials from the house.

Rao on Progress of Inquiries Into Bombay, Calcutta Blasts

BK2003071093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0630 GMT 20 Mar 93

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao, has said that investigations into the Bombay and Calcutta bomb blasts are progressing on the right track. He told newsmen at the Mangalore airport today before starting a day's visit to Karnataka that the government will be able to come out with more details about investigations. Expressing satisfaction at the steps taken by several state governments, the prime minister said that the security measures throughout the country have been fully geared up and the situation in Maharashtra and West Bengal is well under control. He said the center is in constant touch with these state governments.

Earlier, the prime minister was received at the Mangalore airport by the Karnataka governor, Mr. Khurshid Alam; chief minister, Mr. Veerappa Moily; AICC-I [All India Congress Committee-I] Genereal Secretary Janardhan Poojari, and other dignitaries.

Rao on Ayodhya Temple, Blasts, Party Indiscipline

BK2003162293 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 20 Mar 93

[Text] The prime minister has said that he is having consultations with religious leaders of both the communities on the proposed construction of a temple and a mosque at Ayodhya. Mr. Narasimha Rao was addressing a news conference after launching the Adi Shankaracharya statue project in Singheri in Karnataka today. He called upon the people to fight religious dogmatism.

Replying to a question, Mr. Rao said he has received information from the Maharashtra chief minister on the investigation of the Bombay bomb blasts. The prime minister said the investigations are going on as per plan and the government will be able to come out soon with more details.

Asked about the reported indiscipline in the Congress-I, Mr. Rao said as party president he has appointed a disciplinary committee. He said all complaints of indiscipline will be looked into more stringently than before. Later in the evening, the prime minister dedicated to the nation the 68-km railway link between Mangalore and Uduppi in Karnataka. It marks the first phase of the 760-km Konkan railway on the west coast of the country. The prime minister described the railway project as a fine example of national endeavor in which many states have cooperated with the center. He said the economic program of the government has helped in starting many projects without state funding. Mr. Rao said bringing prosperity to the people is the only item on the national agenda now and declared that nothing can distract us from this goal. He said India will not allow any arm-twisting from any outside agency. Presiding over the function, the railway minister, Mr. Jaffar Sharif, expressed the hope that many more such projects will come up in future. He said the Konkan railway will ultimately connect the entire west coast from Bombay to Kanniyakumari. Our Bangalore correspondent reports that the inaugural passenger train carried over 100 rural youth who had seen a train for the first time. Addressing a public meeting in Bangalore later, the prime minister said no political party can be allowed to fight political battles on the basis of religion.

Four Punjab Militants Killed in Encounters

BK2103053693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0435 GMT 21 Mar 93

[Text] In Punjab, four militants were killed and six held in various encounters with security forces since last night. A police spokesman said two militants were killed near village Sharja Mojra in Ludhiana District and two others were killed in encounters at Talwandi Chaudharian in Kapurthala District last night.

Nine 'Terrorists' Killed in Punjab

BK2203053493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0435 GMT 22 Mar 93

[Text] In Punjab, nine terrorists including two hard-core were killed in separate encounters with the security forces since yesterday. According to an official spokesman, two hard-core militants, Nasib Singh and Gurmail Singh, responsible for over 100 killings have been shot dead in an encounter near Moranda in the Rupar District. One police official was also injured. Elsewhere in the state, three terrorists were killed in Gurdaspur and four in the Jagrao area of Ludhiana District.

Government Accuses UAE of Shielding Bombay Bombers

BK2203012093 Hong Kong AFP in English 1728 GMT 21 Mar 93

[Text] NEW DELHI, March 21 (AFP)—The Bombay police on Sunday accused Dubayy of "shielding" the alleged masterminds who set off bombs on March 12 in the western Indian metropolis in one of world's deadliest terrorist strikes. The PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) quoting the Bombay Police Commissioner Amarjit Singh Samra said the United Arab Emirates (UAE) was shielding the suspects.

The rejoinder came a day after the UAE police said the key suspects had left the southern Gulf state for another country in the Middle East because the Bombay police was late in sending details to Dubayy after the Bombay blasts. It also blamed India for not informing them of the reported escape of the prime suspects—Yakub and Ismail "Tiger" Memon—to Dubayy just before the deadly explosions.

"Well before the Memon brothers reportedly departed for an unknown destination from Dubayy, Bombay police had alerted the (UAE) authorities through the government of India," PTI quoted Samra as saying. "However, it appears that the Dubayy government has no intention to hand over the wanted men to Indian authorities, and wants to defame the government of India and the Bombay police," the city police chief said.

The two Muslims along with four brothers and their families fled Bombay, India's commercial heart, before the chain of explosions killed 300 people and wounded 1,250 in India's most spectacular terrorist raid.

"The Dubayy government is yet to inform where the Memon brothers have gone," Samra said in a late Sunday evening news conference.

A police commander in Dubayy was quoted as saying India had made a mistake by delaying their alert to the emirates that the Memons had fled Bombay to take shelter in Dubayy.

"I must say that the Indian authorities erred in releasing the names and pictures of the alleged conspirators, even before seeking any assistance from their counterparts in Dubayy," said the commander, Dahi Khalfan.

"It amounted to warning them (the bombers) of their impending arrests," the official was quoted as saying in Dubayy by newspapers on Sunday.

A day ago on Saturday, the Dubayy police were quoted as claiming to have "hemmed in" the Bombay suspects.

The allegation and the counter-charges came amid reports Sunday that the key suspects had fled from the UAE, where their boss, Bombay's underworld chief Dawood Ibrahim lives, to a neighbouring country.

India and the UAE do not have a bilateral pact such as the extradition treaty New Delhi and London signed last September to combat separatist terrorism and drug trafficking. India and the UAE maintain strong political and economic relations and about 350,000 Indians live in the emirates. Many of them have established luratives businesses in Dubayy, including Ibrahim, who is also linked to the March 12 bombings.

India's ambassador in the UAE, Ranjit Sethi, said Khalfan's criticism would not affect bilateral ties.

Madras Party Workers Held for Trying to Show Black Flag

BK2103080493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0730 GMT 21 Mar 93

[Text] In Tamil Nadu, about 100 activists of Pattali Makkal Katchi and the Republican Party of India were arrested when they attempted to show black flags to the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] leader, Mr. L.K. Advani, on his arrival in Madras this morning. Meanwhile, additional police forces have been deployed in Madras in view of the BJP public meeting in the city this evening. The Jayalalitha government has granted permission for the meeting despite protests from other major opposition parties including the Congress-I.

Pakistan Urged To Resolve Disputes Via Simla Accord

BK2203080093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0730 GMT 22 Mar 93

[Text] New Delhi has urged Islamabad to abandon its negative policies towards India and join the sincere efforts to be made to resolve differences peacefully under the Simla agreement. This was stated by the external affairs minister, Mr. Dinesh Singh, in the Lok Sabha today. In a written reply, he said that Pakistan made efforts to introduce a resolution on Jammu and Kashmir at the 49th session of Human Rights Commission in Geneva but could not succeed due to lack of support. He said New Delhi will continue to apprise the international community of Pakistan's support to terrorism and subversion.

Spokesman Supports Process Leading to Russian Democracy

BK2203155393 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 22 Mar 93

[Text] New Delhi says that it will support every process which leads to democracy and stability in Russia. This was stated by a spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry in New Delhi today while responding to a querry by newsmen on India's reaction to the political developments in Russia. The spokesman said the friendship between India and Russia is traditional and will be abiding.

Government Wants To Contribute To Middle East Peace Process

LD2103163493 Tehran IRNA in English 1257 GMT 21 Mar 93

[Text] Athens, March 21, IRNA—India's growing relations with the Zionist state does not imply that New Delhi is envisaging any role in the so-called Middle East peace process, said an Indian Foreign Ministry official.

"We are not envisaging for ourselves any role in the Middle East peace process. But we thought that by opening up lines with Israel we could be participants in the Middle East peace process because our committment to the legitimate aspirations of the Palestinian people is very well known and logical," Indian Foreign Secretary Jotindra Nath Dixit, told IRNA in an interview Sunday.

Dixit will be going for a 3-day visit to the Zionist state after his current trip to Greece and Cyprus.

"We have always recognized Israel. Now we translated it into establishing actual diplomatic relations," he said. New Delhi and Tel Aviv exchanged ambassadors last year.

"Whatever one may think of Israel's other activities, it is certainly a very important country, a very disciplined society and India and Israel have much to gain from each other and in the process if we can stabilise the situation in West Asia and contribute to the Middle East peace process we would like to," Dixit said.

Commenting on the Palestinian deportees issues, the Indian official said Israel's action of expelling them was "excessive."

"Israeli reaction to that violence which led to the pushing out of people was excessive," he said.

Top Maoist Guerrilla Arrested by Andhra Pradesh Police

BK2003120893 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1135 GMT 20 Mar 93

[Text] The Andhra Pradesh police arrested the former leader of the banned People's War Group [Maoist organization], Kondappalli Sitaramaiah, near Vijayavada in Krishna District today. He had been evading arrest for one and half decades. There was a reward of 3 lakh rupees for his capture.

Moldovan President Departs; Describes Visit as Positive

BK1903131493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 19 Mar 93

[Text] The Moldovan president [Mircea Ion Snegur] was today accorded a warm send off at the end of his three-day state visit to India. Talking to newspersons, Mr. Snegur described the results of the visit as positive.

Commentary on Scope for Increased Cooperation With ASEAN

BK1903135893 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 19 Mar 93

[Ajay K. Roy Commentary: "India Becomes Sectoral Partner of ASEAN"]

[Text] The foundation for institutionalized cooperation between India and ASEAN countries has been laid with

the commencement of sectoral dialogue relationship at the just-concluded two-day high-level dialogue between the delegations led by the external affairs minister, Mr. Dinesh Singh, and the ASEAN Secretary General, Mr. Ajit Singh. The inauguration of this partnership in terms of the decision of ASEAN summit in Singapore last year is a manifestation of the desire on the two sides to tap the potential of fruitful economic ties to the maximum extent possible.

Although not a member of ASEAN, India will be linked with it through a sectoral dialogue in three areas—trade, investment, including industry and technology, and tourism. A concrete measure toward coordinating these activities is the decision at the two-day meet to set up an ASEAN-India Joint Sectoral Cooperation Committee. The other significant decision pertaining to the formation of an ASEAN-New Delhi Committee consisting of the heads of diplomatic missions of ASEAN countries here which will facilitate the sectoral dialogue partnership. A joint business council will be constituted comprising representatives from respective private sectors of ASEAN and India which will broaden the scope of the joint business councils India has established with some individual ASEAN countries. While India's business with individual countries would be continued, the new setup would seek to enhance business to business interaction at the ASEAN level. The ASEAN Chamber of Commerce and the apex organizations of trade and industry in India are proposed to be brought together for cooperation in nongovernmental area which is bound to be vast.

India will establish a fund under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation, that is ITEC to develop projects and programs in the fields of tourism, administration and management, trade and investments, computer and informatives [as heard], and solar energy and environmental protection. The fund will be placed at the disposal of the ASEAN secretariat and administered by a joint management committee. In the area of trade, India has proposed cooperation in four spheres which include holding regular trade talks between India and ASEAN, establishing mechanism for the exchange of trade and commercial data, regular interaction between business communities, and evolving a mechanism for interaction on industrial standards and quality control.

The quality and standard of goods is very significant area where India-ASEAN cooperation can help promote two-way trade. It is felt that the two sides can evolve standards and norms suitable to the level of technology being employed in production process in India and ASEAN. As regards cooperation with regard to investments, it is significant that over the past three years, ASEAN capital inflows into India have increased from 2.8 million rupees in 1990 to 1.4 billion rupees in 1992. The same year witnessed the Philippines and Indonesia investing in India for the first time. And this upsurge in ASEAN investment is likely to continue as desired conditions fall in place. Several ASEAN countries have built up healthy reserves and are therefore well poised to take advantage of the abundant skilled labor, required technology, and available manufacturing capacity in India.

The investment climate in India has again been made more attractive by the recent measures the government has initiated, in particular, the establishment of the Foreign Investment Promotion Board and the whole package of deregulation measures. In this context, it is also encouraging that there is a discernible shift of Indian investment overseas toward ASEAN largely in joint ventures on industrial products [passage missed due to break in transmission at the source] development for expansion. The joint ventures could be profitably taken to a third country or region such as the Indo-China market which has much potential in pharmaceuticals, textiles, and food processing. As for tourism, there exists a vast potential for India-ASEAN collaboration. This sector is already benefiting from geographical proximity and strong cultural links as two-way tourism traffic has increased steadily in recent years aided by improved air transport and communication links. It will benefit travel prospects, hotels, and joint marketing of tourist destinations of both the sides.

Within the framework of sectoral dialogue, India and ASEAN will have to constantly expand new avenues of cooperation like software development and marketing, institutional linkages in major sectors such as petroleum and natural gas, because the two-way trade at present leaves much to be desired. Although trade has grown at 11 percent for the past few years, India's exports to ASEAN at about $1,300 million annually account no more than 6.3 percent of our total exports. Our imports from ASEAN at $1,500 million are less than 7 percent of our global imports. India figures even less prominently in ASEAN's trading profile. Both its imports from and exports to India account for less than 1 percent of its global trade. After all, what India and ASEAN, the most dynamic economic powers in the region, have embarked on is a landmark development leading to high levels of understanding and cooperation in the field of investment and technology.

Minister—1993 Exports To Hit $19 Billion

BK2103125293 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 21 May 93

[Text] The union commerce minister, Mr. Pranab Mukherjee, says an export incentive scheme for the states will be announced soon. He told newsmen in Madras today that under it, states will be encouraged to develop infrastructure for export-oriented industries. Mr. Mukherjee said exports during the current financial year are expected to touch $19 billion. This marks an increase of five percent over last year's performance.

Investors' Confidence Said Unaffected by Bombings

BK2103054093 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1615 GMT 20 Mar 93

[Speakers identified by screen caption]

[Text] It is by now clear that among other reasons the recent bomb attacks in Bombay were engineered to destroy the investors' confidence in India. So, what is the situation on the ground? We have a report:

[Begin recording] [Correspondent Jagmohan Bhasin] The timing was perfect. Just when steps like full convertibility of the rupee, lowering of customs duties, and excise duty cuts had created an attractive climate for investment, deaths and mayhem swept across Bombay. So, has the foreign investors' confidence been shaken?

[President of Indo-American Chamber of commerce B.L. Sawhney] Certainly not. As I feel, there is a... [changes thought] I had the opportunity of meeting the heads of the embassy in Delhi and individual businessmen also. They are not deterred by these events because they are quite common in the Western world also. It is not new to them.

[Bhasin] Industrial leaders like Mr. Sawhney believes that portfolio investments, technology transfer and investment by nonresident Indians in the country would continue unaffected by the recent incidents. Industry watchers also believe that developed Western nations like Britain and Spain have also been rocked by terrorist attacks. But that in no way has deterred foreign investment in those countries. So, was there any truth in newspaper reports that some foreign airlines like Lufthansa was thinking of pulling out of India?

[Lufthansa Regional Manager Kavin Sethi] The report is completely unfounded. We have no intention whatsoever of changing our schedules in anyway whatsoever. We will continue to fly as scheduled to Delhi as well as to Bombay.

[Bhasin] More important, the quick resumption of trading activity at the Bombay Stock Exchange and renewal of confidence by the brokers has dispelled fear of any kind of breakdown. And with a share index shooting up by 50 points in the very first hour of trading, the right signals have gone across to potential foreign investors. [end recording]

Investment Board Approves UK Joint Venture Steel Plant

BK2103041693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 21 Mar 93

[Text] The Foreign Investment Board has cleared the integrated steel plant project at Doitari in Orissa. The plant is proposed to be set up in the joint sector by the state government and a UK-based industrialist. Disclosing this to newsmen in Bhubaneswar, the chief minister, Mr. Biju Patnaik, said the steel plant has a capacity of 2 million tons and would involve an investment of 6,500 crore rupees.

Iran

President Delivers Friday Prayers Sermon 19 Mar

LD1903174793 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1130 GMT 19 Mar 93

[First Friday sermon by President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani at Tehran University on 19 March—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. [passage omitted] I begin my first sermon by stressing the need to observe Islamic and human obligations and maintain the pearl of piety. In these two sermons ...[pauses]... In my first sermon I will look back on the past year and give some brief remarks on plans for next year [beginning 21 March], and the state of the revolution in the world and at home. My second sermon will be specially devoted to the issue of Palestine. I will try to make my remarks concise and itemized, so as not to inconvenience the dear ones more than necessary in this cold weather. [passage omitted].

In the final sermon of this year, and on the threshold of the new year, it would be apt to start the sermons by looking at our performance record for last year. For that is without doubt what the people expect. Were it not Jerusalem [Qods] Day and the Day of Palestinians today, I would have preferred to devote both sermons to our living conditions and to an appraisal of our work, but one cannot ignore the priority of Jerusalem Day, because you people today, have been influenced by the attraction of this sacred day. Regarding our situation in the past year, I must say that fortunately in 1371 [year ending 20 March] we pursued the revolution's path to perfection in all dimensions. From whichever angle and dimension we look at our issues and the performance of the revolution, they seem satisfactory. In my opinion there are no dark spots on our path and performance record. Even though our enemies are trying to demoralize our people, and are bent on finding the commuity's natural weak points with a microscope, and then magnify them and bring them to the attention of the people—so that they may perhaps succeed in making people regret their revolution. Unfortunately, we have speakers among us, who use our platforms, and who knowingly, and/or out of ignorance carry out their wishes. But thanks be to God, our nation's awareness and alacrity, and their profound perception of the achievments of their revolution has inured them and they have become immune against the immense amounts of poison which they see emanating from alien voices—and sometimes domestic voices and pens. In seeing such things, they become more earnest and steadfast, a sample of which we are a witness to in this glorious gathering today and in the presence of the masses of people in the streets which made it difficult for us to

reach the university today. Therefore, the fact that I use every opportunity to speak about the achievements of the revolution and our performance is not because I am in charge of the executive power and that I am so to speak defending the government's performance. No! It is the revolution, God's blessing, gratitutde for God's blessings; the impact of your presence on the scene, the importance of the influence and the performance of a revolutionry people who have in a dastardly manner become targets of poisonous pens, or seditious and poisonous tongues, that should be defended. This has always been my role, even when I was in the Majles, or in my capacity as the Friday prayer leader. I deem this to be my Islamic and revolutionary duty. I consider it an injustice, indeed, when this glory is called into question for no reason, thereby leading—God forbid—less knowledgeable people astray.

In a general glance at the world, we see the revolution as progressive, successful, fresh, and dynamic.

It is strange that there is so much counterrevolutionary propaganda against us, against Islam and the revolution in the world. And yet, the magnificent music of revolution—this well-rooted tree—has embraced the world and humanity. This cannot be but for the God's will to preserve that sacred tree and to make that divine light more powerful. Otherwise, we ourselves are not that strong; we do not have so many resources.

You see wherever Muslims live, wherever a group of Muslims are gathered, revolutionary Islam—the Islam which is hostile to blasphemy—is on the scene. The wave of Islamic alertness has frightened infidelity and global arrogance. [passage omitted]

Some may be frightened by violent and cruel scenes which exist against the Muslims in the world. They may think that it is the period of weakness of Muslims. That would be a totally wrong picture. If today was the period of Islam's weakness, arrogance would not have found it necessary to resort to so much injustice, to deploy so much force to suppress Islamic resurgence. It is not for nothing that the primary concern of arrogance is what they call Islamic fundamentalism, that all the ringleaders of arrogance and colonialism are complaining of Islamic fundamentalism, and that they say the world's number one danger is Islamic fundamentalism. Why has such a thing developed?

Every fair-minded person can easily conclude that since Islam is dynamic, since Islam has frightened arrogance, since Islam and Muslims are intent on reviving Islam, and since the era of Islamic awakening has come, so the enemy has been forced to confront us in that fashion. It is clear to you all. From the Pacific to the Atlantic, you see it is the Koran and Islamic culture which is the primary problem of the day all over the globe.

I do not want to name countries and refer to specific places because I do not want to intensify the pressure against them, but you yourselves know everything. Anywhere in the Islamic countries where they held free elections the Muslims won on the ticket of Islamic sovereignty, not because being a Muslim was written on their identity cards. Those who said that they wanted Islam's sovereignty won. But global arrogance forgot its own pro-democracy slogans. It let those who had been successful in the ballot box be suppressed. It forced them to succumb to such shame, such a turn-about in their [arrogance's] claims. It forced acceptance of duplicity in dealing with the masses—in one place they raise the banner of democracy while in another place they suppress public opinion under the pretext of the campaign against Islamic fundamentalism.

We are present on the world scene. Everywhere there is a movement, the name of Islam and Iran is mentioned. Even the enemies mention Iran's name where Iran is not present. They do so in an effort to draw a frightening picture of Iran and mobilize their own public opinion for their objectives.

However, they are making a mistake. That way they are showing off Iran's greatness to others. In many events we really are not involved; yet, they point to Iran. They look for something in the unfounded and distorted reports of news merchants and vendors of mendacious news—those who live on espionage—in an effort to find something to pin on Iran.

That indicates the depth of this movement. Of course we accept it and take pride in the fact that the root of all this lies in the Islamic revolution. Iran is the mother of Islamic lands. And the spiritual leader of all Islamic moves is the imam [Khomeyni] and his lofty thoughts. So it is not without reasons [that Iran is mentioned as the source of Islamic fundamentalism]. But one cannot create a political file out of that against a revolution and a nation. [passage omitted]

In these conditions a country [Iran] has been freed from the destruction of a unique war in history. It has been successful in eliminating its budget deficit. It has presented a balanced budget to the Majles. It has more than ten percent of economic growth—something that even the most bitter enemies cannot deny. It has investment at 12 percent—a figure unmatched in all but a few countries of the world. It has taken fundamental steps for the construction of the infrastructure in such difficult conditions. It has harnessed the waters. It has stabilized [the expansion of] the deserts. It has repaired the damages of the war, earthquake and floods. It has expanded its communications several times over. It has become self-sufficient in steel and petrochemicals. It is fast taking gas to all parts of the country. It has activated its industry. It has filled its empty market—where everything was controlled by the black market or by several foreign-currency-rate markets or by monopolistic channels. It has established conditions of supply and demand. It is producing more steel than it consumes. It produces more copper, aluminium, and consumer goods than it consumes. It has more than 10 percent growth in its agriculture. It is significantly increasing its exports. It is

doing well in meeting consumer demands. It nevertheless gives people great subsidies. Water, oil, and electricity are almost free. Sugar and cooking oil are almost free and only the transport costs are received from the people. It gives hundreds of millions of tomans in direct subsidies to the vulnerable sections of society—sections which became vulnerable in the conditions of war and revolution. It is an honor for a nation to do such great things. It is no great thing to find a small problem and to highlight it and to say nothing has been achieved. Under great strains, under deviating propaganda, inheriting the destructions of the hated Pahlavi regime, inheriting the single-commodity economy—partly controlled by global arrogance—inheriting all the destructions of war, it is great that a nation has now produced these proper economic indexes—which are acknowledged by the research and observations centers of the world. This honor must be recorded in the name of the nation. [crowd chants God is Great].

One of the factors which our people see on the stage is that, despite the problems which past and present conditions create for them, they can see these things. [sentence as heard] They can feel it for themselves. They can see that the rate of unempolyment is falling rapidly, from 14 percent to 10 or 11 percent. They can see that, in these same conditions, illiteracy is being uprooted. They can see that underprivileged areas, which include large parts of our country, are being developed and that a great deal of investment is being made to remove these injustices. They can see that the universities, which used to accept a limited number of students in the past, now accept over 200,000 young people per year. These things are tangible. They can be felt by the people in their everyday lives.

A family, which would not dream in the past that their child might go to university one day, can see that they now come to fetch their child and take him to university. An underprivileged family! A child who would have found it difficult to even go to school in the past! The people can feel these things. They now have water in their village. They have electricity. They have roads. They have gas, telephones, transport. People can understand these things. Of course, they deserve much more. They know that justice has not been completely realized. There are still inappropriate subsidies. There are still some things which should go to villagers but are consumed in towns instead. These things must be corrected gradually. And, alongside these things, the most important thing that the [five-year] plan has achieved is the issue of adjustment [from the centrally controlled war economy toward a more market led economy]. If we do not cure this disease, our nation will never gain its economic independence.

A nation which is prepared to use its wealth—the foreign exchange which, at the moment, is a major source of wealth for the country—at one/twentieth of its value and to deprive the people in this way, will never be reformed. Foreign exchange [of the U.S. dollar] at 70 rials amounts to selling oil for nothing; wasting the country's revenue-generating resources. Much more than 70 rials is spent to extract the oil, much more. That we should sell this at 70 rials! And convert it to things which are mainly used by the well- off? Very little goes to the underprivileged. Of course, we will not get anywhere in this way. Of course, this nation will come to its knees one day—this economy will grind to a halt. Of course, production will not thrive, exports will not thrive. This [economic adjustment] is something that had to be done and it is a source of pride that, after the war, we began to undertake this task.

You can see what is happening in our neighboring countries. A huge country like Russia is trying to adjust. You can see what difficulties they are having. Those people, who want to analyze these problems, should not take them lightly. The task is a huge one. A great deal of courage is needed to undertake these tasks which open the way for demagoguery; uninformed people can easily be deceived in this regard; saying, this or that thing has become very expensive; this or that thing has become scarce. To tackle such a task! And in a country where everything depends on elections.

God be praised, this path is being treaded with success. Sometimes they [unspecified as heard] try to scare the people by suggesting that the move to a single exchange rate next year will have grave consequences. Let me tell you here and now, much of the work has already been done. In 1371 we released many things from foreign exchange at 70 rials and made them rely on foreign exchange at the floating rate. Much of the task has already been done. Nevertheless, when we tackle the task of harnessing basic goods such as medicine and defense [equipment], we will ensure that the move to a single foreign exchange rate will not put pressure on the people. All basic goods will be dealt with in this way. By purchasing agricultural products at guaranteed rates, we will strengthen large parts of our agricultural sector, because the source of our independence lies in our agriculture.

I believe that these things are a source of pride for you the people, for your regime, for the leader of our revolution, for our Majles, our government, our officials and our popular base. We must always stress and explain these things. We must inform the people about the issues. Next year, too, this same path will be continued. I hope that with the work we have already done under the first plan we will be able to draw up a good program to complete the first plan so that all the problems are ironed out and the path is paved for us to achieve the aims we have set ourselves for the decade of reconstruction. I believe that, without economic independence, political independence will be on shaky ground and can be harmed. Without a strong economic base, the revolution cannot be protected. We will, God willing, proceed according to plan. [passage omitted—Koranic verses]

Second Prayers Sermon

LD1903185193 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1207 GMT 19 Mar 93

[Second Friday sermon by President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani at Tehran University on 19 March—recorded]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted—prayers and Arabic verses] I am devoting the second sermon entirely to the problem of Palestine and the honorable Jerusalem [Qods]. I believe that Palestine is the most important problem of the world and our history. In confrontation between arrogance and the meek, between Islam and blasphemy, and between the oppressors and the oppressed, Palestine is the confluence of all points.

The establishment of the Zionist government of Israel in Palestine is one of the strangest phenomena of our history. I have referred to that issue on other occasions but now the conditions are changing so I will explain the issue. You know that the problem was originally designed by the British and lately, in recent years, it has been handed over to America. It was in the hands of the British when they were the mother of all colonialism; today when America is managing it, she is the mother of all colonialism. And that was designed in purely a colonialistic and arrogant manner with no regard for humanity, history, and justice. [passage omitted]

One of the colonial tasks was to set up a government by the name of Israel in the Middle East. They know the importance of the Middle East better than we do—it is where 70 percent of the world's energy lies. It is also the main air, sea, and ground communication artery of the world. It is the cradle of humanity's past civilizations with the possibility that, using such capital, these civilizations may return to their original status. It is also where the most fundamental human ideology—Islam—lives. And as such it is the center of spirituality. [passage omitted]

Now the objective was to plant an instrument in the region replacing the old colonialism but performing the same tasks in different guises. And the area in consideration lies between the Nile and the Euphrates. That is, from the Suez Canal—a bit further west—to the Persian Gulf. [passage omitted]

This is not something that we say just to accuse Israel—it is the slogan of the Israelis and the Israeli parliament has stated it. It is a reality which was in the original draft of the [Zionist] designs. [passage omitted saying a country in such a vast area extending from the Nile to Persian Gulf and embracing all oil deposits would be a tremendous power in the hands of arrogance]

Ever since that event [establishing the State of Israel] took place, the problem of Israel and Palestine has become the axis of all the important world events. Several wars fought in Palestine and around it in the past years were related to it. The war which we recently had when the Allied forces attacked Iraq was related to that issue. The eight-year war against us stemmed from the same. They know that if an Islamic power takes form it will primarily threaten Israel. They do not fear the Arabs. They have never feared the Arabs because the Arabs have proved ... [sentence unfinished]

And that is what shapes many of the world's problems. It is a form of a test. Whoever wants to become close to Europe and America is obliged to clarify its stance on Israel. Even the Chinese, in an attempt to render themselves more palatable to the world, officially recognize Israel, while claiming that they do not recognize Israel. That is how they make their case palatable. For Russia to prove its sincerity to the West, it must assist Israel and allow Russian Zionists to migrate. And any Arab country wishing to maintain good relations with the West must first pass the test and somehow distance itself from its anti-Israeli stance. The current axis of the international diplomacy of Western arrogance constitutes the issue of Israel, and that is for the reasons which I have already mentioned—it is for the sake of that plan and those resources and conditions. The fundamental issue here is Islam. In other words they are worried and they know it.

The British, during their official presence in Muslim countries grasped the fact that it is impossible to play with people's religious sentiments. Wherever they went, they at least pretended that they were not against Islam. As I said, on entering Bushehr, they built mosques, gave charity meals and observed the fast, because they had grasped such sentiments. They have always been in danger. They planted Israel here so as to check the growth of Islamic movements and to find pretexts for crushing the Islamic movements. Of course, there are numerous other issues involved, and that is not the only one. It also provides them with a good excuse for selling arms. Regional wars have always constituted the main reason for squandering the nations' resources in purchasing the West's inferior weapons which become obsolete after a few years, hence the need to purchase new weapons every day. This is an instrument of which the Western merchants have many and in which they have confidence, and by virtue of which they can establish an economic and technical presence wherever they wish under various pretexts. There are many other issues. I cannot be expected to mention all the dimensions of the case in a sermon. These discourses only serve to draw a small picture.

Well what is going to be the outcome of this historic event? What will be the outcome of this incredible resolve on the part of arrogance. What has happened so far has failed to fulfil all their objectives. They did not expect their plan to establish a government from the Nile to the Euphrates to take so long. And the reason for that is that in those days there were neither any serious popular movements nor did they fear those governments. They thought that they could make rapid progress. Generally they have been faced with two obstacles: one has been popular resistance and another the revolutionary governments which have evolved—sometimes in Egypt, sometimes in Syria, sometimes in Libya, sometimes in Iraq, sometimes in Yemen. And it [arrogance] has prevented Islamic forces which were assisting here and there from achieving their objectives.

Another factor is the resistance displayed by the people themselves. The Palestinians themselves have done similar acts in their history, through their resistance and their armed struggles. They [arrogance] have had such

factors to confront and to prevent. As you see even now, this deportation of 400 Palestinians has become a principal obstacle in the way of a treachery which was planned to take place. This intifadah has destroyed many equations; and such similar events had always existed in the past. Of course one of the very serious mistakes of the Palestinians was to give up their homes very soon. They took their children and wives and packed up their belongings each time the Israelis created a climate of fear. [passage omitted].

There was no proper leadership then to stop people from leaving, and that encouraged the enemy to continue raising fear. Just resist once, and it will end; like the present. Did anything happen to those who remained in the occupied territories after the 1967 war? Now there are a large number of Palestinians ...[pauses] ... these very people who are managing the intifadah, these hundreds of thousands of people who congregate outside the al-Aqsa mosque, these very people who have so exhuasted Israel, are those who remained there under those conditions. They remained, and so they have the opportunity to fight today. Had they remained inside Palestine too, today the same would apply to Tel Aviv, Haifa, and other places. That was a very big mistake. [passage omitted].

That [Palestinian flight in 1948] was one of the mistakes in history, which should not be repeated by any nation. One must stay put once the attacker strikes—if necessary, one should remain silent for a while, and then prepare the ground and revolt. [passage omitted]

The second mistake has been made by the Arab governments. Any time an appropriate current has been created and resistance movements were formed, they submitted to negotiation [with Israel]. Arabs have always been deceived in negotiations, and nothing has been achieved by those talks. If you look at the history of Arab-Israeli talks, from the beginning to the end always the outcome of such negotiations has been to put down the wave of peoples' emotions, with Israel becoming more dominant, making some promises and never keeping them. That is why we are witnessing what is taking place today. It is Iran, alone among 180 countries in the world, which says that she does not accept the negotiations. Other countries have accepted the talks. That is a basic source of pride for us.

It is not for nothing that they accuse us of intransigence. And it is because of this stance which we have adopted that other issues are also raised. If they talk of [Iran's] atomic weapons that is the reason; if they talk of submarines that is why; if they talk of terrorism that is the reason; if they talk of human rights, that is the reason. Of course, prior to that [Iran's position on Mideast peace talks] the roots go back to Islam and to the revolution. Which is something else; now we are talking about recent factors.

Israel has not given anything up in any negotiation. Look at them this very day. Today I was reading a report in my daily brief. The Palestinian researchers—reputable personalities—have announced that Israel lies in the talks. That is because it went to America and said that it would stop building settlements in the occupied territories. So it received $10 billion in credits for what it wanted. Yet, this very moment they have 11,000 housing units under construction—settlements specifically for Zionists to live in the occupied territories.

At this very moment they are building roads and motorways cutting through Palestinian and Arab villages to connect the settlements together. That is, right at the moment when they have invited everybody to the talks they are achieving their own ends. And, yet the point of the talks is to leave [the occupied territories]. Well, if they were going to leave, why are they spending so much money? Are you building these settlements for Palestinian guests who may come from Lebanon and from all corners of the world? It is obvious that they tell lies. [passage omitted]

You arrogants, you are making a huge blunder. You are working against your own interests and those of your nations. You have certain qualities which can bring you respect and dignity throughout the world. All those industries, all those developments, all those sciences, all those techniques which have been developed there can bring a great deal of honor. Do not pollute those honors with such tyranny and oppression for which no justification can be found. You make baseless remarks. To support Israel you accuse everyone and everything.

You saw that the European Parliament issued a resolution against Iran a few days ago. The resolution was issued for the same reason. Things were said in that resolution that no propaganda dealer would resort to. By doing so, I believe that great Parliament, which is comprised of many countries, brought itself down to the level of a propaganda factory that has no principle constituting its programs apart from money.

I thought, my God, what kind of people are they that sit down and vote and sign some document and there is no-one to tell them that they have misunderstood. Fortunately I noticed that one of the members of that Parliament announced in Paris yesterday that he was ashamed of the European Parliament's illogical move. Finally one person among a few hundred people said something logical. They are in fact very illogical and show double standards. They have no answer to give at any discussion or negotiation table.

I have no doubt that in the end these Palestinians will succeed, those refugees will return, and the Zionists who have no right to be there will be sent back to their homelands, and the al-Aqsa Mosque will once again be returned to the Muslims. [audience chants: God is Great; Khamene'i is the leader; down with America; down with Israel] [passage omitted]

Khamene'i Delivers New Year's Address

LD2003214993 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1443 GMT 20 Mar 93

[Speech by leader of the Islamic revolution Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i on the occasion of the advent of the Iranian New Year in Tehran on 20 March—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful: [passage omitted] I offer my felicitation and congratulations on the occasion of the auspicious New Year and the blessed Id al-Fitr [festival marking the end of Ramadan] to the Iranian nation, and all nations who respect and celebrate those two festivals. Particularly, I offer my sincere congratulations to those whom all of our nation is duty-bound to respect; that is, the honorable families of our beloved martyrs; the dear self-sacrificing forces and their families; the freed POW's and their relatives; and the MIA's or captives who are still live in captivity and their families. I also beseech God Almighty divine blessing for the immaculate spirit of our revered Imam.

Another year of our lives has passed, and we are on the threshold of another. The year that passed was a divine test. That is, if we have managed to implement our obligations during every hour and every second of that year, then we shall not regret what we have missed or what is in that past. We hope that is what has happened. [passage omitted]

In the coming year, we expect our dear government and administrators to continue their active and powerful efforts toward achieving the goals that were proclaimed last year by the government itself. This is the year of planning. The second plan will be drawn up by the government and presented to the Islamic Consultative Assembly. I strongly advise the planners and the government officials to be aware that the main aim should be to help the deprived sectors of society. This will take us closer to social justice. In our country and in the Islamic republic, the main aim is the establishment of justice. Economic boom is only a prelude to this aim. The construction effort is only a prelude to this. We do not want to build the country and create an economic boom where a group of people will have more wealth and another group will be poorer. This is not the will of divine Islam or ourselves.

We want construction, economic boom, material progress, and economic advance in order to come closer to social justice—so that we will no longer have any poor, so that the deprived classes will no longer feel deprived, so there will no longer be any deprived regions in the country, so that the difference between the rich and the poor will be less every day. This is our main goal. They must maintain this in the plans.

The five-year plans are each a significant step for the movement of the government and the nation toward the goals of the revolution. The direction—the revolutionary direction—must be maintained with great emphasis and insistence.

I want to say one thing to our dear officials and the dear nation. It is this: Whenever we have been successful in the past, if we look closely, we will find that we adhered to and respected the principles of the revolution on those occasions. Whenever we have failed, we have—to some extent—disregarded divine Islamic and revolutionary principles. Our advances have been based on the principles of the revolution.

Of course, our enemies try to suggest the opposite. Cunningly and wickedly they write and report from abroad. Their agents write from inside the country that it is adherence to revolutionary principles that creates problems. No, this is a lie. It is slander. Revolutionary steadfastness is a solution to problems for the nation and for the government. It opens the way; it removes obstacles. The thing that creates problems is deviation from the principles of Islam and the revolution—be it in our deeds or in our thoughts. Sometimes our thoughts may be revolutionary but our deeds may not be. This, too, creates problems.

Take a look at the eight year war, the imposed war. There you can see this point clearly. Look at foreign policy. You can see it clearly. It is the same in other areas. We must adhere to this point when we are drawing up our programs.

For this reason and for many other reasons, I advise our dear nation to try to pursue this same revolutionary path in the new year, the year ahead that, praise be to God, has just begun. Try to pursue that same Islamic path and that same spirit of altruism and the spirit of helping the government and officials. Try to maintain that same unity and national solidarity. These are things that are problems solvers for our society and for our country.

If you look at our enemies' efforts and propaganda, their work is focused on destroying our nation's unity. The enemy wants us to fail. Thus, we need unity to solve our problems and to cure our ills. They want to create divisions between the government, the nation, officials, and individuals. We must try to move in the opposite direction. They want to make the people distance themselves from Islam and the aims of the revolution. That is to the disadvantage of our nation. The people must try to shorten that distance and move ever closer to Islam and the revolution.

Let me stress that, on this same basis, the propagation of virtue and the prohibition of vice—which are two divine duties—are among the things that can prove useful and effective for our nation. The dear youth, our faithful young ones, and every single individual must keep these duties in mind. The different organs of the country—government and also revolutionary organs—must try to move closer and closer to Islamic and revolutionary principles. [passage omitted]

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Delivers New Year's Address

LD2003183093 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1513 GMT 20 Mar 93

[Address to the nation by Iran's President Hashemi-Rafsanjani on 20 March to celebrate Iranian New Year—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. [passage omitted—Koranic verse] Greetings to you, our honorable and vigilant nation, on this ancient occasion of Nowruz [Iranian New Year], and greetings too to all those people who also celebrate Nowruz. [passage omitted] It is natural that on the threshold of the New Year we should make an assessment of our past and draw up a portrait of our future plans. Every member of our nation should do likewise: an assessment of the past and an effort to draw up a good program, in view of the past, for the future.

When we look back and review the events of the past year and the years before that, we feel that we should be grateful to God and be pleased with what has been our fate; both on the general international level and on the particular level of our own lives. On the international level, we believe that things can be assessed as satisfactory. Our revolution has thrived even more and our message has been received by even more people in the past year; we can see signs of this in the Islamic movements of Asia, Africa, and Europe. The pride-inspring scenes of Islamic struggle in Palestine, Bosnia, Algeria, and elsewhere.

On the other hand, there are also negative points: the discriminatory and uneven attitude of the big powers and of arrogance, who use unethical weapons against these just and justice-seeking movements, resorting to deception and the desecration of divine sanctities and international values. By using human rights, democracy, the battle against terrorism, the battle for disarmament, and so on as weapons, they weaken the people they want to weaken and strengthen the people they want to strengthen, using the exact same weapons. They use the policy of double standards to impose their own wishes. We can clearly see terrible examples of this in Bosnia and Palestine. It is a shameful page in the contemporary history of humanity.

As to domestic issues: As I said, our people's vigilance and their presence on the stage is, in all fairness, increasing by the day. This is a source of pride. After 14 years since the victory of the revolution, when many people thought that the ideals of the revolution would fade, we witness pride inspiring scenes of the presence of our people on the stage. One example was the splendid march on 11 February [anniversary of the revolution]. [passage omitted]

Thus, we should thank God, both for the domestic situation and for the international situation. At the same time, we should remain anxious about and critical of the unjust attitudes of the big powers of the world.

As to the plans for our own lives. As I said, we must take a look at our past record and we must give an idea of our future programs. We must paint an image of our future, for our New Year, for our people, so that they in turn can draw up their own programs.

We have always said that we are proceeding according to plan, that the first plan has been the basis for our actions, and, fortunately, we stand proud before our people. We have been successful in the implementation of the plan. We have very few weak points in the implementation. When we look at all the different areas included in the plan we see that we have taken important steps. In the cultural and educational sphere, in terms of quantity and quality, in research, at all educational levels, starting from literacy to university level, we can see a good growth. In service sectors, important tasks such as the provision of energy, gas, fuel, water, and other things; the provision of health, sport facilities, and so on, have proceeded according to plan, sometimes better than the plan.

As to economic issues, our economic indicators are extremely satisfactory and any fair-minded analyst would concede that we have chosen the correct path. Gross domestic production is showing an approximate growth of 10 percent. Growth in investment, which is an important indicator, is approximately 12 percent. The budget deficit, which was a harmful plague in our economy—government borrowing amounted to over 50 percent of our budget in 1367 [year begining 21 March 1988]—fortunately, in this year's budget we do not have a deficit. There is a balance between revenue and expenditure.

The distribution of wealth, which even after the revolution showed an unsatisfactory trend—it was more to the advantage of the wealth—is moving toward greater justice. This is very valuable to us from the viewpoint of social justice. Our banks have been successful in attracting people's savings and transferring them to production and investment and services. Cash flow is currently playing a satisfactory role in our economy. Our exports, which were in a situation of stalemate and there was nothing to be exported, have now gained a satisfactory increasing growth. We currently produce domestically many intermediary goods which used to be imported for the country's production and industries which have reduced our foreign currency expenditure. Fortunately, from this year we will have a great deal of saving and we will reduce our foreign commitments gradually. With the implementation of such policies, from this year and the next year and other future years we shall have a surplus in our foreign currency.

Unemployment has reached an appropriate level. Many unemployed have found jobs, and with the unification of the exchange rate we believe that job creating schemes and increasing domestic production and decreasing imports will also create more jobs. We have paid particular attention to illiteracy, lack of hygiene, and environmental problems, which will continue, and many other issues, which we have usually explained to you, which you are aware of, and you can feel the results.

Markets are full of goods. We have reached equilibrium in demand and supply in many cases. Even though goods are expensive, hoarding and multiple rates and black markets, which are the mother of all moral and social corruptions, have been reduced extensively and are on the verge of elimination, and we are achieving some kind of balance in those matters.

We hope to be able to continue the same policies in the same manner and even faster in the future. When we think of the future, we think that because we were satisfied with those few years of the first plan, then we should continue the same path in adopting policies for our second plan. An important task for us in the New Year is to prepare our second plan, and we hope to be able to prepare an even more extensive plan, using our past experience and then offer it to the Majles. Fortunately, the Majles is in complete harmony with the Government and the Government is coordinated with the Majles; in harmony we can prepare an ideal plan for the next 5 years. We already think that our basic priorities are clear for the next plan and our people will be informed of the details when the plan is presented to the Majles.

Currently we are implementing many projects which shall receive priority. We are implementing around 1,000 large national projects and around 3,500 provincial projects, which are both big and small. We shall also give priority to the reconstruction of the war-hit areas, earthquake and flood-stricken regions, attend to the deprived and underdeveloped and rural regions, and the control of deserts, most of which will be implemented in deprived regions.

Cultural and educational issues, universities and technological colleges continue to play a significant role in the education and research in our country because of their important infrastructural role in the life of mankind. Basically our infrastructural projects concerning water, electricity, and energy in general, transport, mines, and mother industries and processing industries, telecommunications for improving communication between people, and housing are going to receive priority in our economic, educational, and scientific plans. The same priorities were also given in our first plan.

In order to attach importance to production, which has been the Government's top slogan—and fortunately we have remained loyal to this slogan—we shall continue giving priority to supporting producers in the agricultural sector and industry. This will be performed by implementing the policy of single parity exchange rate for hard currency. We shall also impose tariffs on imported goods in order to assist the domestic products. Of course, here the interests of the consumers are important to us, too. We shall make certain that the consumers do not feel the pressure; and the producers will also make a reasonable profit, which will enable them to compete with imported goods. These policies will continue.

At this point I must say that the policy of supporting and subsidizing items in the plan will continue in the second plan. The subsidy figures for the next year are very high. The figures are considerable. In various ways we offer a direct monetary subsidy of about 250 billion tumans to the vulnerable sectors. We also import $1.25 billion worth of such essential items as wheat, sugar, rice, meat, vegetable oil, cheese, and other similar goods, so as to make certain that the essential commodities needed by the people are not affected by the single parity exchange rate for hard currency. We will maintain the subsidy on fuel and energy. That is, transport, the people's fuel, electricity, and water consumption will be subsidized next year and for part of the second plan.

I therefore wish to reassure our people that they should not worry at all about what is said on occasions by some circles, to the effect that a single parity exchange rate might create difficulties. The people should not worry at all, as these steps are taken in accordance with a plan and will not harm the people's daily requirements. Even last year we implemented the single parity exchange rate in many instances, including in industry and several other places. The sting has been taken out already; and only some special cases remain for next year. Praise be to God and thanks to this plan, we shall maintain the past balance.

We have tried to increase wages. Our wage earners know how their earnings have grown compared to the past. This policy will continue in proportion with the inflation rate and the increasing demand. At the same time, we have taken the administrative reforms seriously. This will grow faster, as there are many files which have reached the decisionmaking stage.

Our foreign policy will remain unchanged. We will avoid adventurism, but we will maintain an active idealistic presence in the world. We will raise our revolution and our message; and we will refrain from interfering in others' affairs; we strongly oppose adventurism, terrorism, bullying, imposition, and arrogance's opportunism. We will defend our rights and we will respect the rights of others. We think that in today's world, where there is no longer any polarity, there are only two options left: either dependency accompanied by a kind of tranquillity and much disgrace, or independence accompanied by great effort and endurance against the burdens, as well as an honorable life based on one's own resources. We have chosen the second option. We hope that God will give us the blessing to follow and maintain these aims and ideals. With the people's support we shall undoubtedly continue this path.

At the end of my message, I once again pray for the success of the nation and all the freedom seekers, as well as the idealists of the world. I hope that the valuable effects of the holy month of Ramadan, which people have achieved in their worship, will touch our spirits and our services in the coming year. I also pray to God for the success of the benevolent people of the world, who help solve problems at the centers of crisis and conflicts around the world. Difficulties face many parts of the world—as with the people of Palestine, Lebanon,

Bosnia-Herzegovina, Afghanistan, Karabakh, Tajikistan, Kashmir, Somalia, Sudan, and the innocent people of Iraq, as well as other places. In the same way that we think about our own problems we think about the problems of other people, particularly those of the Islamic regions.

The magnificent and sympathetic presence of our people in the demonstrations on international Qods day—and the slogans heard from our people and other Islamic sections of the world on that honorable day with regard to removing this great injustice committed against this people—indicate the deep attachment of the masses to these issues and their wish to remove this injustice and oppression. God willing, these infections will be removed from the body of mankind. God's blessings be upon you.

Tajiks Celebrate Iran's New Year; Aid Sent

LD2203103293 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 22 Mar 93

[Text] The arrival of the Iranian New Year [Nowruz] has aroused great enthusiasm and joy among the people of Tajikistan. According to our correspondnet in Dushanbe, yesterday, on the start of the new solar year, a message from the Islamic Republic of Iran's ambassador to the people of Tajikistan was broadcast on the country's radio and television. Then, the radio and television began broadcasting Iranian songs and tunes liked by the people of Tajikistan.

Also, following the [earlier] humanitarian assistance sent by the Islamic Republic of Iran to the people of Tajikistan, medical and food aid, delivered by one of our country's freightplanes, was handed over to Tajikistan's Red Crescent society yesterday.

Palestinian Deportees Send Message to Khamene'i

LD2003150893 Tehran IRNA in English 1346 GMT 20 Mar 93

[Text] Tehran, March 20, IRNA—Palestinian deportees in South Lebanon have cabled a message to leader of the Islamic revolution Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i, underlining their resolve to fight the Zionist occupation forces.

In their message, published on Friday [19 March], the Palestinian deportees lauded the supreme leader of Iran for his efforts and stances on the Qods [Jerusalem] issue.

The message reiterated that the Palestinians are not the only owners of Palestine and other lands occupied by the Zionist regime but the lands belong to the whole Muslims. "Nobody can ever give it up or make a deal over it," it said.

In a separate message to Ayatollah Khamene'i, Shaykh Abdullah Ahmed Alshami, on behalf of the deported members of the Islamic jihad of Palestine, congratulated him on the international Qods day.

He vowed that Palestinian combatants would do their best to make the message of the founder of the Islamic republic, the late Imam Khomeyni heard by the Palestinian people.

The Palestinian figure also criticized the Palestine Liberation Movement leader Yasir 'Arafat for his compromising stance and accused him of confronting the Islamic resistance.

Jerusalem Issue, Struggle Against Zionism Viewed

LD1903215893 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1730 GMT 19 Mar 93

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Today the world Muslims stage demonstrations and march against the usurper Zionist regime concurrently with the Muslims of occupied Palestine on the Qods [Jerusalem] day. Dispatches reaching here from all over the world indicate that today the world Muslims announced their solidarity with their Palestinian brothers and sisters in various ways. The international Qods day which was declared by the great leader of the Islamic revolution the late Imam Khomeyni, may his soul rest in peace, to express Muslim disgust with the Zionist regime and to glorify the struggles conducted by the oppressed Palestinian nation is actually a call in expressing preparedness for jihad against Zionism and the world arrogance.

Every year the world Muslims by taking part in marches and rallies held on the same occasion reveal their practical commitment towards the defense of sacred Islamic belief and the world Muslims rights. Announcement of hostility and preparedness for jihad against the Zionist regime which has a hand in every plot against Islam and Muslims is considered as a duty. Virtually the [entire] Muslim nations on the international Qods day stress this fact the struggle against Israel as the bastion of international Zionism as well as struggle against Zionist agents in the world of Islam must go together for the Zionist regime by taking advantage of Muslim's negligence and slackness by which it could establish itself as an illegitimate entity in the heart of Islam and to expand its activity and enmities against the world of Islam.

Today Muslims in Iran like other Muslims consider it as their duty to always activate confrontation against their Zionist enemy and not allow Israel to attain its anti Islamic and racist objectives with the help of the world arrogance. It is hoped that the Muslims will say the last word against the Zionist enemy in the endeared Palestine and the holy Qods.

'Propaganda Struggle' To 'Disgrace' U.S. Sought

NC1903160793 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 10 Mar 93 p 2

[M. Shahidi commentary: "The Problems of Mr. Clinton and the Issue of Terrorism"]

[Text] The new round of the U.S. propaganda war against the Islamic Republic of Iran has intensified at a time when Bill Clinton is facing serious problems in the first months of his presidency:

1. The new U.S. President has been unsuccessful in keeping his election campaign promises on solving U.S. economic problems and has admitted that he cannot keep these promises. Clinton fought George Bush in the campaign by promising to improve the American people's economic situation—and this was one of the major successes he scored against his Republican rival—but he is now facing problems in successfully fulfilling his promises. This will, naturally, hurt his popularity within the next few months among the people whose main interest is seeing an end to the economic recession and an improvement of their living conditions.

2. The bombing of the World Trade Center, which, according to Washington officials, was the biggest terrorist operation in contemporary U.S. history, has frightened U.S. public opinion.

Since this incident, U.S. officials have started extensive investigations to arrest the bombers and so far a number of people have been arrested. But as to how a car full of explosives was able to enter the state parking lot of the World Trade Center skyscraper—something that proves the inefficiency of the country's security-intelligence system—is an ambiguous issue which adds to the anxiety and concern felt by the American public.

3. The Islamic Republic of Iran remains firm in its stance on a political confrontation with the United States. U.S. pressures on Iran that attempt to force Iran "to give up its extremist slogans" have been in vain. The United States sees that, despite its economic problems, the Islamic Republic of Iran continues to oppose the compromising Middle East peace talks, that it has not shown any deviation on the death decree against Salman Rushdie, that it encourages and supports Islamic fundamentalism in the world, and that—in their opinion—it continues to support international terrorism (!!) [exclamation marks as published] and is the most dangerous government in this field.

Under such conditions, the rulers of the White House have once again aimed the sharp blade of their propaganda at the Islamic Republic of Iran and have issued the State Department statement. "The export of crisis outside national borders" has always been one of the principles which the United States has steadfastly pursued in its policies. Each time U.S. officials face a problem at home, they aim their efforts at creating an imaginary crisis abroad so that the public's attention is distracted from domestic problems, this process is usually coupled with military risks.

Some analysts of U.S. problems believe that in addition to the above problems, Bill Clinton is facing serious problems in the "choices" that he has to make on Iran. Clinton, who has been elected to the White House 12 years after his Democrat predecessor Jimmy Carter, has inherited a record of U.S. denigrations by Iran in bilateral relations. Naturally Clinton has not forgotten that is was during the rule of his Democrat predecessor that the Islamic Revolution led to the overthrow of one of the strongest U.S. puppet regimes in the sensitive and strategic Persian Gulf. It was at that time that the hostage-taking of American diplomats inflicted a strong blow to U.S. prestige in the world and disgraced it among the world nations. Also, Clinton is aware of the fact that under such conditions, the Democratic administration in the United States had to sever relations with Iran, and that this situation has continued until today because of the Islamic Republic's steadfast stances and insistence that its demands be met. The efforts by Reagan and Bush to revive relations with Iran, which the United States needs, were in vain.

On the eve of his entry into the White House—and influenced by the unchanging U.S. policy, without bearing in mind the record of U.S. relations with Iran—Clinton said that "giving up extremist slogans and falling into step with the United States" is a condition for the improvement of bilateral relations. Today he feels that not only are there no signs that his childish conditions are being met, but that Iran continues to be steadfast on its principled stances and wants its political confrontation with the United States to continue. Therefore, it seems that the State Department statement on Iran should be considered as a sign of helplessness. The imaginary accusations and the tattered tool of supporting terrorism are being aimed at Iran by those who are the engineers and perpetrators of the biggest crimes against mankind. The black record of the White House against the world's oppressed nations and the U.S. policy of double-standards on world problems disgraces the United States throughout the world and is not at all popular among the world's public opinion. We should make the revelation of U.S. crimes in the world one of the priorities in our political and propaganda efforts and use all our resources to fulfill this objective. The president's revealing letter to the heads of European countries, which summarizes the report card of a West that advocates democracy and freedom and support for human rights, is a good prologue to this. The strong statement by our Foreign Ministry, which reflected the views of our country's leaders vis-a-vis the imaginary accusations by the White House, speaks of Iran's firm determination to enter this scene of this propaganda struggle. It is necessary for the Foreign Ministry, influenced by the president, to keep open the record of U.S. crimes and to use all its resources to disgrace the White House's use of oppression and suppression in the world.

Paper Criticizes State Media Commentaries

NC2003122393 Tehran SALAM in Persian 10 Mar 93 p 2

[Unattributed commentary: "A Glimpse Within"]

[Excerpts] During the past few days we have seen how U.S. officials and the mass media have resorted to a coordinated propaganda program to pressure Iran, and this process may continue. On Monday [8 March] we published a commentary on this issue, today we intend to look at the issue from a different angle.

1. There should be no doubt that the principle ruling international relations is the maintenance of interests and the expansion of power. Morality plays a lesser role in determining relations between governments. Naturally the stronger a country is, the bigger its appetite for controlling others. Only the self-reliance of the other country can prevent the fulfillment of this objective.

We should accept that relations with the Western countries, especially relations between the United States and our country, is not an exception to this rule. Therefore weak policies cannot yield any results. We should not believe that giving an inch out of weakness or moral considerations will make the other side consider our act as a sign of goodwill and that they will take a step backward. On the contrary, they will take several steps forward.

2. Do differences of opinion mean we need to be hostile in each and every instance? For example, if an explosion takes place in one of their civilian buildings, should we be happy? Should we accept everything that they reject? And should we oppose anyone that they support?

Naturally only anarchists and people lacking principles can give positive answers to these questions. No ideologue, revolutionary, or Islamic person can agree with this point of view.

3. One of the points that, unfortunately, does not receive the attention it deserves is the contradiction in existing policies—a contradiction that becomes more obvious when each person has the right to adopt a policy on the basis of his own personal taste.

The general principles of this country's foreign policy, which were outlined by His Eminence the Imam, may his soul be sanctified, are known. [passage omitted]

4. We should stop and think a little more about the pressures by world organizations and the West put on Iran in relation to human rights. We accept some of the points that they are referring to, except that they consider what we are doing to be illegal on the basis of their criteria, while we consider what we are doing to be correct and we take responsibility for our acts. [passage omitted]

Some of the incidents that have been mentioned in Galindo Pohl's recent report [on human rights in Iran] are outright lies. But there are also ambiguous incidents and even some confirmed incidents. Of course, none of the instances mentioned in this report fall under the values and legal principles of this system and we are not trying to defend this report. Nevertheless, there are those who resort to acts arbitrarily while the nation is forced to pay the price.

On what legal principles or Islamic and humanitarian values, and with what authority, were several hundred people mobilized to raid the house of a renowned personality and clergyman? [Reference to the raid on Grand Ayatollah Montazeri's residence last month] Let us not discuss the credibility of this person, but which law or rule allows a group to raid the house of an Iranian citizen with such peace of mind?

Who is unaware of the fact that tens of thousands of words were disseminated abroad in news reports on this incident and that these reports have had heavy moral costs for our system and people, while no source inside the country has given an explanation on this incident? Who are those who are serving the opponents of the system—Amnesty International, the Human Rights Commission and the Western countries? Who are those who behave in this way and who do not take the responsibility for their acts or for those whose sole duty is to pay the costs for such acts?

Frankly, this is what makes our society weak and vulnerable in front of the enemies. It will intensify the enemies' pressures on us. If our people voted for a law, even if the law is contrary to all the principles that the West accepts, then they are ready to pay the price for the implementation of this law; and naturally the West will not be able to do anything. Therefore, the responsibility for any encroachment on these accepted principles lies on the shoulders those who violate these principles.

5. The principles of our foreign policy and of our values are clearer than any other issue. In the same way that we support liberation movements and oppressed peoples in the world, we are not prepared to support terrorist or deviant acts, or even to express our happiness on such acts. Of course we do not allow the Western powers to interpret terrorism as they wish. But the spread of terrorism does not benefit oppressed nations. There is probably no country that has suffered from this as much as Iran. Therefore, while we support the Palestinian nation's uprising and the intifadah, we express our aversion to blind acts such as the bombing in New York. While we consider the bombings of the aggressive U.S. and Israeli forces in Beirut and Tyre as a good omen, we also abhor airline bombings and attacks in city centers where the victims are usually innocent civilians. This hatred stems from both a moral and a political point of view. No God-seeking conscience can accept such acts and such incidents only give the powerful a lever to increase their pressures on independent and innocent countries. So, who takes responsibility for commentaries that look at such incidents positively, especially when these commentaries appear in media that are affiliated with the government?

Pakistan

Kanjoo Says Indian Allegations 'Totally Unfounded'

BK2103143093 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 21 Mar 93

[Text] Pakistan has reiterated its proposal for the posting of neutral observers on both sides of the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir and along the borders of Pakistan and India to verify charges of traffic of persons and material across the Line of Control. Addressing a news conference in Islamabad this afternoon, the minister of state for foreign affairs, Mr. Mohammad Siddique Khan Kanjoo, categorically stated that while Pakistan wholeheartedly supports the diplomatic, political, moral, and just struggle of the Kashmiri people for self-determination, there is no involvement of Islamabad in terrorist activities.

[Begin Kanjoo recording] The allegation that Pakistan is providing assistance to militant groups in Kashmir is totally unfounded. Indeed, the charge of terrorism must be directed toward a country which is engaged in massive atrocities and grave human rights violations that fall under the category of state terrorism. India's state terrorism in Kashmir has been condemned by human rights organizations both in India and throughout the world, such as Amnesty International and the Asia Watch. India continues to deny access to international humanitarian relief agencies and human rights organizations to Kashmir. The popular indigenous revolt in Kashmir makes it clear that the people of forcibly Indian-held Kashmir have totally rejected Indian rule. [end recording].

Kanjoo Repeats Condemnation of Terrorism

BK2103112093 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 21 Mar 93

[Text] Pakistan has reiterated its condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and has decided to invite foreign journalists, parliamentarians, human right organizations, and observers to see for themselves the situation on the ground in order to dispel any impression of its complicity in terrorism. This was stated by the minister of state for foreign affairs, Mr. Mohammad Siddique Khan Kanjoo, at a news conference in Islamabad this afternoon. He said these teams of media, parliamentarians, and other observers would be free to travel to any place of their choice, including areas along the border and the Line of Control. He said in the recent past questions have been raised regarding Pakistan's alleged support for terrorist activities in Jammu and Kashmir. He categorically stated that while Pakistan wholeheartedly supports the just struggle of the Kashmiri people for self-determination, this support is diplomatic, political, and moral and there was no involvement in terrorist activities.

Arrest of Indian Agents Foils 'Terrorist' Plot

BK2003102093 Peshawar THE FRONTIER POST in English 20 Mar 93 p 8

[By Rana Mubashir]

[Text] Islamabad—Security forces arrested 11 RAW [Research and Analysis Wing—Indian intelligence organization] agents near Rajisthan as they were trying to sneak into Pakistan territory highly placed sources told THE FRONTIER POST here Friday.

The RAW agents during investigation have reportedly admitted that they were to make explosions in the major cities of the country. RAW has been active in Pakistan, especially in Sindh, for quite some time, but went underground after the security measures taken by the law enforcing agencies in rural Sindh.

The flow of terrorists in the country was checked to some extent when the imigration authorities refused 48 hours transit visa to Indians. Entry of illegal immigrants and terrorists in the country was curtailed by this decision. Army operations in Sindh was another factor which helped in stopping infiltration.

It seems as if the RAW has been given green signal now to start terrorist activities once again.

The Indian government has already tried to put the blame of recent bomb explosions in Bombay and Calcutta on Pakistan which is an old strategy of India. The Pakistan government has vehemently denied Indian accusations.

Charges Against 835 Sindh Detainees To Be Withdrawn

BK2103041293 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 21 Mar 93

[Text] Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif and Sindh Chief Minister Syed Muzaffar Hussain Shah, as a gesture of goodwill on the occasion of 'Id al-Fitr, [around 25 Mar] have decided to withdraw charges against 835 people who were arrested during the cleanup operation in Sindh. According to an official announcement issued in Islamabad yesterday evening, these people were involved in various minor crimes and they are from both urban and rural areas of the province. The decision was made in consultation with military authorities.

U.S. Called 'Enemy Number One' at Al-Quds Day Rallies

BK2003111593 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 20 Mar 93 pp 1,5

[Text] Islamabad, March 19: Al-Quds [Jerusalem] Day was observed throughout the country Friday on the call of Hojjat ol-Eslam Syed Sajid Ali Naqvi, Chief of Tehrik Jafria Pakistan. Last Friday of Ramadan was declared Al-Quds Day by the late Imam Khomeyni. The day is observed every year all over the globe.

In Pakistan big rallies and meetings were organised in different cities by Tehrik Azadi-e-Quds. Speakers held the US and Israel responsible for plight of the Muslims in different parts of the world. They stressed that Jihad was the only way to liberate Al-Quds.

Speakers at the Islamabad rally condemned those Muslim rulers who are advocating the recognition of Israel. They termed U.S.A. the enemy number one of the Muslim world.

The rally which started from Dal Masjid ended at [word indistinct] Chowk were speeches were delivered and effigy of US President Bill Clinton and American and Israeli flags were burnt.

Heavy contingent of police remained alert to thwart any untoward incident.

The speakers condemned the so-called peace process in Palestine and warned that no peace was possible till the annihilation of Israel, which according to them was an illegitimate offspring of America. Those who addressed the rally included Maulana Kausar Abbas, Maulana Sahraim Sherazi, Maulana Sahtain Sherazi, Maulana Mazhar Jaffery and the divisional president of Imamia Students Organisation.

The speakers debunked the human rights organisations of the world on the issue of deportees and said their duplicity was exposed.

A large number of participants were holding banners and placards inscribed with slogans such as Israel must be destroyed, fight Israel with full faith in God and full trust in weapons, armed struggle is the only way for the emancipation of Al-Quds, Al-Quds is not only an Arab issue, etc.

Peshawar bureau adds: A big procession comprising the followers of different schools of thoughts was brought out here Friday to observe Quds Day.

The procession started from Imam Bargali Alamdar Qissa Khwani and marched up to Sukarno Square, led by Hojjat ol-Eslam Sayed Mohammad Jawad Hadi, Maulana Mohammad Iqbal Kamrani, Maulana Shakiri, Maulana Khurshid Anwar Jawadi, Malik Abdullah Jan Dangash, Mohammad Ramzah Saqi, and the central secretary general of Tehreeke Jafria. The processionists were chanting anti-Zionist, anti-British and anti-US slogans, with banners in their hands scribed with such slogans and a model of Baitul Maqdas.

At Eseltamia Square the procession was converted into a public meeting which was addressed by Malik Abdullah Jan Bangash, Maulana Khurshid Anwar Jawadi, Anwar Ali Akhuhzada, the president of Tahreeke Saadar Wa Mohibban Maulana Abdul Quddus, Ghulam Ali Zahid, Yaqoob Ali Razi and Manzar Naqvi.

The speakers bitterly criticised the Zionists for occupying Daitul Maqdas, and US, Britain and other such forces for backing Israel against Palestine and Lebanon. They regretted that the Muslims were victimised throughout the world including Palestine, Bosnia, Philippines, Algeria and Kashmir but the rulers of the Muslim countries were silent spectators. On the other hand, they said that the anti-Muslim forces were dividing them on sectarian basis. They also condemned those backing Salman Rushdie for his blasphemous book "The Satanic Verses."

They said that the Fatwa of Imam Khomeyni against Rushdie would remain intact for ever.

They called upon the ummah to give up their differences and form a united front against the anti-Muslim forces for the liberation of all Muslims. They also expressed solidarity with the Kashmiri freedom fighters.

At the end of the public meeting they burnt the effigies of Salman Rushdie and US President Bill Clinton and also flags of India, US and Israel.

Meanwhile, addressing a public meeting on Quds Day, the divisional president of Imamia Students Organisation, Peshawar Division, Hussain Sajjid has asked all the rulers of Muslim world to declare Jihad against Israel for the liberation of Al-Quds.

According to a press release, he said that the Muslims should follow the footprints of their forefathers to stop Zionist brutalities against the helpless Palestinians.

Sukkur: A big rally was brought out Friday under the auspices of Imamia Students Organisation (ISO) Sukkur, to celebrate the Al-Quds Day.

Hundreds of ISO workers from different parts of Sukkur and Rohri marched on the main roads of [word indistinct] and Intos held a meeting at Clock Tower Chowk. The rally participants carried big banners and tri colour flags, inscribed with various slogans.

Later addressing the rally, Syed Alam Shah Bukhari, a noted Shi'a leader called upon the Muslim so to forge complete unity in their ranks and foil the evil designs of colonial powers and Israel. He said the continued occupation of Al-Quds by Israel was shameful for the Muslims, and they must realise the gravity of the issue.

He asked the Muslim and Arab states to review their relations with the western countries, because they were not sincere with them. He said jihad was the only way to liberate Al-Quds from the yoke of Jews.

The rally later dispersed peacefully.

PRC Group Discusses Ties With Sartaj Aziz

BK2103143693 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 21 Mar 93

[Text] A Chinese delegation led by the vice governor [vice chairman] of Xinjiang Province [Autonomous Region] Mr. Li Donghui held talks with the finance minister, Mr. Sartaj Aziz, in Islamabad today. Both sides discussed various measures to develop the transport

system in order to promote economic cooperation between Pakistan and China with special reference to Xinjiang Province. It was agreed to establish an air link between Islamabad and Urumqi and improve the existing road link between Gilgit and Kashgar to facilitate trade through northern areas of Pakistan and the Xinjiang Province. It was also agreed that the trading companies of Xinjiang Province would set up their offices in various cities of Pakistan.

Progress in Ties With PRC Noted

BK1903164893 Islamabad PAKISTAN in Urdu 16 Mar 93 p 10

[Editorial: "Pakistan-China Cooperation Will Be Progressing"]

[Text] Chief of Army Staff General Abdul Waheed has held fruitful and constructive talks with Chinese Premier Li Peng and Vice Chairman [of the Chinese Central Military Commission] Liu Huaqing in Beijing on enhancing friendly ties and cooperation between the two countries and their armed forces. On this occasion, Li Peng has said the traditional friendship between the two countries as well as their people and armed forces has stood every test of time and the first visit of General Abdul Waheed to PRC after assuming his office bears testimony to the fact that the government of Pakistan gives importance to Pakistan-China ties. He expressed the hope that the general's visit will help promote bilateral relations, especially between the armed forces of the two countries. Li Peng thanked Pakistan and other justice-loving developing countries, who, at the recent session of the UN Human Rights Commission, foiled the attempt of some western countries to interfere in the PRC's internal affairs under the pretext of human rights. These western countries moved a resolution which was rejected by Pakistan and like-minded countries.

The PRC and Pakistan are extremely trustworthy friends and they have stood beside each other at every trial. The PRC has extended full assistance to Pakistan in its struggle to achieve economic progress and self-sufficiency. Pakistan has been getting full cooperation from the PRC in the process of achieving self-reliance in defense production also. An element of harmony and continuity has been observed in the relations between the two countries. They never experienced any downward trend in their bilateral ties. The PRC is one of the major countries of the world. But it regards itself as a developing country and calls upon all to maintain cordial relations on the basis of the recognized principles of coexistence.

The PRC has never interfered in the internal affairs of Pakistan and has always been in the forefront to meet Pakistan's economic and defense needs. Above all, its assistance and cooperation has been unconditional. In the context of their bilateral ties on an equal footing, the PRC and Pakistan have set an example to the world. The PRC did not hesitate to provide technical assistance to Pakistan. Taxila Heavy Mechanical Complex, Forge and Foundary, Kamra Aeronautical Complex, and other organizations are clear proof of this. Pakistan has been manufacturing small aircraft and effectively undertaking the repair and overhauling of Mirage aircraft. It has started manufacturing spare parts for F-16 planes and commenced production of tanks, heavy artillery, missiles and various types of weapons. The PRC has provided the expertise and technology for all this. On the basis of this technology only, Pakistan has started building ceramic and cement plants and supplying these to other countries. Both countries have been cooperating in the field of ship-building also. The PRC has also extended considerable assistance to Pakistan in the exploration and exploitation of natural resources. Sandak project is a glowing example of this.

Pakistan and the PRC share identical views on regional and international affairs and they are in favor of the peaceful resolution of issues on the basis of recognized principles. The PRC has agreed to provide a 300 megawatt nuclear power project to Pakistan to meet its energy requirements. Preliminary work for its installation has commenced in Chashma.

To help Afghanistan face its external threat, the PRC has extended all possible financial and moral support to the Afghan people at every stage, beginning with the fulfilment of daily needs of millions of Afghan refugees. The PRC favors implementing the UN Resolutions on Kashmir for a just solution of the issue. It is in favor of resolving human problems prudently with a human touch in order to assuage human feelings and effectively eliminate humiliation and disgrace of humanity.

The vice chairman of Chinese Central Military Commission Li Huaqing has expressed the hope that the friendship and cooperation between the armed forces of the two countries will continue. Pakistan-PRC friendship will help establish regional peace, stability, and tranquility and will prove to be a cause for eliminating the tendencies of aggression, expansionism, and hegemony in the changing global scenario where the Cold War has become a thing of the past. General Abdul Waheed told his hosts that Pakistan attaches great importance to its friendship with PRC. Pakistan's armed forces are desirous of enhancing their friendship and cooperation with their Chinese counterparts. The government and the people of Pakistan are thankful to the PRC for its assistance during hard times.

Jet Trainer Jointly Developed With China

BK2203113593 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 22 Mar 93

[Text] Pakistan and China have jointly designed and developed a jet trainer aircraft—Karakoram-8. It will take part in the Pakistan Day parade fly-past tomorrow. The plane, manufactured in China in collaboration of Pakistani and Chinese engineers, was flown to Pakistan Aeronautical Complex, Kamra, from China by Pakistani pilots on Friday [19 March] night. Addressing a news

conference in Rawalpindi today, the minister for defense production, Mir Hazar Khan Bijarani, said production of this aircraft is expected to begin at Kamra by the end of next year.

He said the matter of purchase of tanks from Poland is still under consideration. Pakistan has asked Poland for improvement in certain systems of the tank. Replying to a question, the minister said the project for joint production of Al-Khaled tank with China is progressing according to schedule. The prototype Al-Khaled tank is now being tested and further improvement would be made if necessary.

Editorial Reviews Nation's Nuclear Option

BK2103093793 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN OBSERVER in English 21 Mar 93 p 6

[Editorial: "Pakistan's Nuclear Option"]

[Text] Once again the nation is debating the question of developing atomic energy for peaceful purposes and equipping ourselves against the possibility of a nuclear attack from Pakistan's traditional enemy on our borders. America's sinister designs to cripple Pakistan and to compel it to roll back its nuclear programme was highlighted when that arch enemy of Pakistan, Stephen Solarz landed in Pakistan for some undercover operation. His secret activities while in Pakistan and then his visit to India came to light when he left our shores. It transpired that he has been trying to collect or concoct evidence of Pakistan's involvement in recent acts of terrorism in India and the US and thus preparing the ground for America to declare Pakistan a terrorist state and put its name on the list of some six or seven countries that have incurred the wrath of the US.

The US and its allies are now bringing to bear on Pakistan pressure from external forces as well as pressure from within. We were well aware of the arm twisting that other countires have been resorting to in the recent past, but the launching of the attack on our nuclear programme from within, in its present form, is a new feature. It seems that a number of American intellectuals, scientists and political figures have been able to persuade some of our scientists and mediamen to start propagating the idea that Pakistan is safer without a nuclear weapon than with it. A university professor is publishing a series of articles in a contemporary, the object of which is to prove that the possession of nuclear weapons by Pakistan will expose it to greater dangers than if we voluntarily gave up our nuclear options and sought our security in conventional weapons and by political means.

While this debate was initiated within the country, threats and warnings reach us every day that the likelihood of being declared a terrorist state is increasing. Every act of terrorism in our region and even in America is by some twisted logic attributed directly or indirectly to Pakistan. The culprits who blew up the World Trade Centre in New York are said to have fled to Pakistan. Kansi, who is alleged to have killed two CIA men is also said to have taken refugee in Pakistan. The bomb blasts in Bombay and Calcutta are also said to be the work of Pakistan. This last accusation is being made despite the fact the Indian police do not now persist in this accusation. The evidence now points to other culprits who have nothing to do with Pakistan except that they happen to be Muslims.

The story that the Pakistan government has agreed to roll back its nuclear programme has stirred the people of Pakistan to worry about our security and the greatest worry we have is that at such a crucial time when the nation should be united and firm in some vital matters, we are embroiled in an unseemly power struggle and the key institutions of the state are at loggerheads with each other. Vital matters are being kept closely guarded secrets and the common man does not know what is happening.

There is a fear lurking in the minds of all that we might wake up one morning to find that we have been sold out to our enemies and our continued existence depends upon the sweet will and pleasure of our over-weaning neighbour noising superpower ambitions and the superpower bully which today presides over the destinies of smaller nations.

Today we are in sore need of the united wisdom and will of the whole nation to seek out a path in a world where the highways and byways are strewn with land mines and hidden dangers. Petty narrow objectives can wait till we have assured our future. If however, we forget our main objective and fritter away our energies in unending squabbles for pelf and power we will be doomed to survive only at the pleasure of our enemies. Survival in this complicated and difficult situation can only be ensured if we stand united and firm in our resolve to defend our freedom and our future.

Sri Lanka

Tamil Guerrillas Seize 18 Muslim Fishermen

BK2003125293 Hong Kong AFP in English 1243 GMT 20 Mar 93

[Text] Colombo, March 20 (AFP)—Suspected Tamil guerrillas Saturday seized 18 Muslim fishermen in eastern Sri Lanka, hours after security forces shot dead at least three rebels in the embattled region, officials and police sources said.

Guerrillas from the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) abducted the Muslim fishermen shortly after they set out in three fishing craft off the eastern coast of Kalmunai, police sources here said.

"Our information is that 18 Muslim fishermen and their boats were taken by the Tigers. How it was done we do not know. Investigations are on," a police source said.

LTTE guerrillas have frequently attacked Muslims in the east causing tension between the Muslim and Tamil minority communities who are concentrated in the region.

The seizure of Muslims came after police commandos killed two LTTE rebels in separate attacks in nearby Rufus Kulum and in neighbouring Batticaloa on Friday and army soldiers also killed another Tiger militant in the same area.

Meanwhile, a military spokesman confirmed Saturday that air attacks on LTTE targets in northern Mannar District on March 10 killed at least 10 rebels and wounded 37 others.

The LTTE is fighting for a separate state in the northeast for Sri Lanka's minority Tamils, who allege discrimination by the majority Sinhalese. Thousands have been killed in the LTTE-led independence campaign.

Spokesman on Skirmishes With LTTE in North, East

BK2103103293 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1007 GMT 21 Mar 93

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 21 Mar (LANKAPUVATH)—The LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] suffered many casualties in separate incidents in the north and the east on the hands of the Sri Lankan security forces during the last 24 hours.

A spokesman for the Joint Operations Command (JOC) told LANKAPUVATH that a security forces patrol confronted a group of four terrorists at Iralakulam in the eastern Batticaloa District Saturday and killed two of them. The troops recovered one T-56 weapon and one radio set from the possession of the dead.

In another incident in the same area Saturday, the troops successfully engaged a group of terrorists around 1500 hours inflicting casualties on them. The terrorists fled the area leaving behind two T-56 magazines filled with ammunition, stocks of milk food and dry ration, including dhal [lentil] and coconut and LTTE literature.

Blood stains at the place of incident indicated terrorist casualties but, details are not available at present, he said.

Meanwhile, the troops positioned ahead of the forward defences at Elephant Pass in the north successfully repulsed an enemy attack killing one terrorist around 1300 hours Saturday. Two others were fallen due to security forces fire and dragged away by the fleeing cadres. It is presumed that they were either killed or injured, the spokesman said.

Large-Scale Desertions in LTTE Ranks Reported

BK2103113293 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 21 Mar 93

[Text] Eight alleged LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] deserters have been arrested while they were hunting for jobs at a shoe factory in Jayala in suburban Colombo. The arrest was made amid reports of large-scale desertions from the Tiger movement. Police said the eight suspects arrested at Jayala have reportedly deserted the movement during recent operations by government troops in the north. Police are grilling the suspects to find out how they came to Colombo and where they have sought refuge.

Meanwhile, military sources said scores of the LTTE cadres were leaving at the movement as the LTTE was reportedly running out of arms, ammunition, food, and medicine. One officer said that they are expecting more LTTE cadres to enter the city as refugees or to surrender.

Tamil Parties Welcome Prabhkaran Proposal on Tamil Issue

BK2103122793 Colombo VIRAKESARI in Tamil 6 Mar 93 p 1

[By S.N.R. Pillai]

[Text] The Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front [EPRLF] has said the Tamil parties have been continuously exerting pressure for the merger of the North and East at the Parliament Select Committee and outside it. The same demand was also made by Prabhakaran, the leader of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam [LTTE]. Therefore, we are glad and appreciate the LTTE for voicing the same demand of other Tamil parties, although it is not going to act with them in a united manner.

The EPRLF further said: Prabhakaran has not revealed his stand toward other Tamil parties in the event of the implementation of devolution of power in the Northeast. If he maintains the stand that he is the sole representative of the Tamils of the Eastern province, it will hamper the implementation of the devolution of power in the Northeast.

Kumar Ponnambalam, the general secretary of the All Ceylon Tamil Congress has said, before the select committee, all the Tamil parties have been jointly emphasizing that only a combined system comprising the North and the East can fulfill the political aspirations of the Tamil people. Hence, the statement of the LTTE leader that he is prepared to review [the proposal for] the combined administrative system based on merger is appreciable. Ponnambalam further said: I have been openly stating that the Parliament Select Committee will not be of any benefit to the Tamil people and that the problems of the Tamils will never be solved. I can understand that Prabhakaran also holds the

same view. I welcome Prabhakaran's statement that he is prepared to consider an alternative one to the proposal for a separate state.

Air Force Officer on Role of Chinese S-7 Aircraft

BK2203114793 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 22 Mar 93

[Text] In keeping with its theme of protecting and dominating our airspace, the Sri Lanka Air Force [SLAF] has entered a new era with its new generation top-gun aggressor aircraft—the supersonic S-7 fighter jets. The S-7 fighters, which had been flying for the SLAF for over a year, have proved a viable deterrent to possible intruders of Lankan air space as well as vital supporters of the Armed Forces operation in the north. SLAF Director of Operations Air Commodore (Peres) said that the primary objective of an Air Force should be to safeguard the air space of a nation. Now they have possessed this capability fully. Colombo, which decided to obtain supersonic jet fighters probably because of sporadic aerial intrusions in the past, found that this expensive aircraft also performed extremely well in anti-terrorist operations. Designed to outfight the enemy ???d to dominate, the S?Y???ry about 1,500 kg of armaments and is equipped with an advanced precision bombing mechanism giving the aircraft the capability of sweeping down on targets at the speed of sound, destroying it and vanishing into the air—all within seconds. It is also equipped with ??royitwo 30-mm cannon. They only take on predetermined targets, giving the benefit of the doubt to the terrorists. Their intention is not to have a single civilian casualty and this aircraft is helping them achieve that, says Commodore (Peres).

It was almost after an year of planning and bargaining that the SLAF acquired its fleet of supersonics from the Chinese manufacturer. Dealing directly with the Chinese Government, the package consisted of seven aircraft, inclusive of Chinese trainer pilots and engineers. These aircraft are flown exclusively by pilots of the Number 5 jet squadron of the SLAF—the best of the Lankan pilots and the air force top guns. Today, the SLAF supersonic fleet consists of two ST-5 basic trainer aircraft, one ST-7 fighter aircraft and four S-7—the highly advanced dedicated fighter interceptors with ground attack capability.

Foreign Exchange Controls Further Liberalized

BK2003111893 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 20 Mar 93

[Text] The exchange controls on all current account transactions have been liberalized with immediate effect. A spokesman for the finance minister said that this will enhance the confidence of the investor and trading community in Sri Lanka and provide further impetus to the rapid development and globalization of the economy. From now on there will be no restrictions on foreign exchange entitlements to persons resident in Sri Lanka for foreign exchange transactions regarding import, export, trade and health, education and travel. A major consequence of the liberalization will be that exporters of goods and services, including local traders, hoteliers, and travel agents who receive payments in foreign currency from nonresidents will no longer have to convert the foreign currency proceeds of their sales into Sri Lankan rupees. The stipulation that export proceeds should be converted into Sri Lankan rupees within 180 days has been abolished. Exports on deferred payment terms will be freely permitted. Importers and other residents who require foreign exchange for health, education, travel, or other current account transactions can now transact foreign exchange from legitimate holders of foreign currency or from authorized dealers. Residents traveling abroad can obtain credit cards for this purpose.

In the case of capital account transactions involving capital transfer and investment abroad, as in securities, property including policies of assurance of gold by Sri Lankan residents, prior approval of the Exchange Control Department will be required until further notice [sentence as heard].